

BISHOP'S COUNCIL 2018 – 2021: TRIENNIUM REVIEW

As the current triennium comes to an end it is encouraging to look back at the work done over the last three years. This summary contains an overview of some of the key decisions made, projects supported and discussions held by Bishop's Council. It is by no means exhaustive! We give thanks for the progress of the last three years and look forward to the joys and challenges of the next stage of our diocesan life.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Deanery Planning process agreed to assist with future strategic planning and clergy deployment strategy.
- Whole Diocese Strategy reviewed and refined. Confirmation of the six shared objectives as the basis for decision making in respect of the allocation of resources.
- Agreement that the Whole Diocese Strategy be viewed through the lens of engaging with people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and work developing children's and young people's spirituality.
- Endorsement given to the Growth Strategy.
- Approval given for the Church Planting SDF bid.
- Growing Faith pilot project in Nuneaton endorsed.

GRANTS FOR MISSION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Bishop's Council have approved grants of over £185k from the Bishop's Mission Fund, and over £215k from Low Income Communities Funding (LInCS). Growing Faith = £88k (across 3 churches, St Paul's Stockingford, All Saints Bedworth and St John's Willenhall). Ministry & Leadership = £143k. Youth workers and other employment = £137k.
- £90k allocated from Diocesan Mission Fund.
- DMF Mustard Seed grants established. 14 grants of up to £500, 9 of which were for digital assistance during the pandemic. Total value of £6.4k (£4.2k for digital)
- Church Improvement Fund established. 20 applications approved, totalling nearly £90k.
- Changes agreed to the criteria of the Church Fabric Fund, to include cost of surveys.
- Parish Share Support Scheme of up to £1.35m established to mitigate the impact of covid-19 on parish finances.
- Offa House Spirituality Fund established to provide funding for spiritual renewal and refreshment.
- Cathedral Endowment Fund established for the purpose of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Cathedral.
- Agreement to join Parish Giving Scheme. 43 parishes so far joined up.

PROJECTS

- Research commissioned into the needs of lowest income parishes in relation to best use of LInCS funds
- Peer Review self-assessment and outcome reports reviewed.
- Approval given for updated diocesan logo and branding.
- Working group established to revitalise effectiveness of links and communication between different levels of the synodical ladder.
- Review of St Clare's at the Cathedral and renewal of interim licences.

DMPC

- Pastoral schemes and suspensions approved and reviewed for over 30 parishes; to create, merge and amend parishes, benefices, team and group ministries.

TRUSTEE & GOVERNANCE FUNCTIONS

- Review and receipt of DBF annual Report and Financial Statements.
- Review and approval of annual budgets and financial forecasts.
- Review of organisational risks.
- Terms of Reference reviewed and updated for Diocesan Finance Group, Business Committee, Audit & Risk Committee, Parsonages Committee, Diocesan Mission Fund, Church Improvements Fund and Net Zero Steering Group.
- Members and Chairs appointed to Diocesan Finance Group, Audit & Risk Committee, Diocesan Mission Fund, Diocesan Environment Group, Diocesan Safeguarding Scrutiny Group, Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, Together for Change, Net Zero Steering Group and Glebe Committee.
- New interim and permanent Chairs appointed to DBF.
- Review and receipt of Committee annual reports.
- Protocol for Serious Incident Reporting agreed.
- Review and approval of safeguarding annual reports and action plan.