



## 4. Board of Directors, Bishop's Council and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee Report

7 December 2023 and 20 February 2024

---

1. The Bishop's Council, Board of Directors and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee met in person on 7 December 2023 and 20 February 2024.

### **BISHOP'S COUNCIL**

#### **TC.T**

2. The Council have continued to monitor progress with Transforming Church Together (TC.T) and agreed how to communicate the opportunities available to parishes through TCT; initially through two incumbent briefing days early in 2024. There will be subsequent events and activities – in deaneries and with parishes - to follow up on these days, and to support local buy-in and greater lay participation.

#### **LLF/PLF**

3. The Bishop has kept the committee abreast of deliberations in London, and the potential impact on our Diocese has been discussed on several occasions.

#### **Deanery School**

4. The Director of Education briefed Council on the recent OFSTED assessment of the Deanery School and the potential ways forward, which are currently under consideration by the DfE Regional Director. A 'Lessons Learned' investigation has been commissioned, led by Bishop Neil.

5. Council have asked that a governance review is undertaken – including how the Diocese oversees our schools – and this will be scoped by the Diocesan Secretary in Q2.

#### **Uganda Link**

6. The Uganda Link was discussed, and Bishop Neil has been tasked with discerning the way forward.

### **Synod Elections**

---

**Richard Leaman, Diocesan Secretary**

**Email: [richard.leaman@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:richard.leaman@bristoldiocese.org)**

Diocesan Office, First Floor, Hillside House, 1500 Parkway North, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8YU

0117 906 0100 | [www.bristol.anglican.org](http://www.bristol.anglican.org) | 

7. This year's Diocesan Synod elections were discussed, and the election timetable was approved, and Council agreed we need a strong communications effort to encourage a wide variety of people from diverse backgrounds, with talent and commitment, to offer themselves up for election. An active and engaged Synod forms a fundamental part of our governance, and helps to support a number of important committees (not least Bishop's Council), so we cannot fail in this endeavour.

## **DBF**

### **Budget 2024**

7. Council have been briefed on the end of year finances for 2023 which, as hoped, met our previously planned reduction in the operating deficit when underspends, overspends, and transfers are taken into account. In 2024, we expect to be able to sustain clergy numbers, whilst utilising National Church funding to deliver the transformation programme overall. Parish Share continues to be a cause for concern, with a higher than usual number of parishes under-pledging, or not pledging at all. The Bishops and Archdeacons are actively discussing the shortfalls with the relevant parishes, to try to avoid a lack of income impacting on our plans going forward.

## **Mission and Pastoral Committee work**

### **Overview**

2. In addition to noting several matters that are currently in progress, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) made recommendations about three suspensions, one Church Representation Rule (CRR) Scheme and one Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP).