



Board of Directors, Bishop's Council and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee report

8 December 2021, 3 February 2022, and 28 February 2022

The Bishop's Council, Board of Directors and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee met in person on the 8th December 2021, 3rd February 2022 and 28th February 2022.

The main area of business across the three most recent meetings was the continuing development of the new strategy for the Diocese of Bristol for the 2020s - *Transforming Church. Together*. The timing of these meetings also coincided with the conclusion of the three-year term of office of the Council and the start of a new term of office.

Welcomes and farewells

The meeting in December represented the last meeting of Bishop's Council that has been in post from the 1st January 2019 until 31st December 2021. Bishop Viv thanked everybody for serving the Council so well, so faithfully and so creatively over the last three years and particularly for adapting to the newly needed ways of working in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Edward Buchan and Nick Orman were thanked for their long years of service to the Council. Kate Davison and Chris Dursley, thanked for their input and experience to this Council. Kat Campion-Spall is standing down after two terms on the Council but remains on the Bishop's Staff and will represent the Diocese on the General Synod.

Also at the December meeting, Richard Leaman was welcomed as the new Diocesan Secretary and CEO. Richard gave a brief outline of what he has been learning about the Church of England and about the Diocese. He explained that his focus over the months ahead would be on what will be needed to deliver the new emerging strategy.

At the first February meeting, five members were welcomed as the new Bishop's Council met for the first time. The new members were Beverley Charles, Clare Jefferis, Alison Rowe, David Stephenson and Abby Scott. As a new Council, the members spent time getting to know each other and developing their collective understanding of the purpose and objectives of the Bishop's Council.

Transforming Church. Together (TCT)

At each of the three meetings, the Bishop's Council spent significant amounts of time working on the continued development of the *Transforming Church. Together* strategy development process.

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At the December meeting, the Council received an update on the 11 working groups that were in the process of being formed, from people from across the diocese, and that would be tasked with examining the activities and costs needed to achieve the four key outcomes identified as part of the TCT work to date. The four key outcomes are:

1. To have a form of church in every community, and a church in which all can participate, thrive and belong
2. To have people who worship God in every aspect of their lives, and throughout their whole lives
3. For the diocese to be recognised as a powerful force for gospel change
4. For the diocese to have sustainable finances

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/visionandpriorities/transforming-church/developing-the-strategy/>

At the first meeting in February, the Council considered the output from the 11 working groups and reviewed the work to bring together their findings and recommendations into a draft strategy.

This draft strategy was duly considered at the second meeting in February, which was an extra meeting that was almost entirely focussed on this important piece of work. Noting the work still to be done to firm up plans and financial projections, the Council approved this outline strategy for consideration and co-creation by Diocesan Synod in March 2022.

Brabazon Church Plant

In February, the Council considered and subsequently agreed proposals for a church plant in the new Brabazon Development in South Gloucestershire.

DBE Scheme

The Council also considered proposed changes to the legal constitution of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE). This relates to the new DBE Measure 2021, which requires each Diocese to make a Scheme appointing an incorporated body (either a company limited by guarantee or an incorporated charitable organisation) as the Board of Education for the Diocese. The recommendation is to make the Diocesan Board of Education part of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), a company limited by guarantee. This proposal will be presented to Diocesan Synod in March 2022.

Mission and Pastoral Committee work

In addition to noting several matters that are currently in progress, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) made recommendations about one pastoral reorganisation and the lifting of one suspension of presentation.

In addition, and in line with the Church Representation Rules 2020, the Committee considered Schemes to provide for representation of Bishop's Mission Orders (BMOs) on the relevant Deanery Synods. The Committee duly recommended a supplementary instrument to the Bishop for Deanery representation for St Nicholas Church, Bristol and recommended the CRR Scheme for St Nicholas Church, Bristol. The Committee also recommended a supplementary instrument to the Bishop for Deanery representation for Pattern Church, Swindon and recommended the CRR Scheme for the Pattern Church. These will be presented to Diocesan Synod in March 2022.

Ukraine

Finally, at the 28th of February meeting the Council prayed for peace in Ukraine.