



SUPPORTING PAPERS

**DIOCESAN SYNOD
ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2022**



**SUPPORTING PAPERS FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD
ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2022**

CONTENTS

PAGES

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

3	Agenda item 5. EDUCATION UPDATE
9	Agenda item 7. PARISH, SCHOOL, DIOCESAN AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO THE COST OF LIVING AND ENERGY CRISIS
14	Agenda item 9. DEANERY SYNOD ELECTIONS
14	9.A Proposed Scheme of Representation for Deanery Synods
15	9.B Representation of Cathedral Clergy and Laity on Deanery Synod
17	9.C Representation of Clergy and Laity from Mission Initiatives on Deanery Synod
19	Agenda item 10. REPORT FROM GENERAL SYNOD
21	Agenda item 11. REPORT ON THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

AGENDA ITEM 5. EDUCATION UPDATE

Please see the document 'Growing Partnerships – School and Parish Church' that follows.



Growing Partnerships

School and Parish Church



LEARNING WITH MEANING AND PURPOSE
TO KNOW GOD AND SHAPE THE WORLD

This covenant is designed to establish and grow a foundation for both schools and church communities to grow in partnership to fulfil God’s mission. We are looking to grow a shared sense of belonging within both bodies.

Key Aims

1. We seek to nurture a love of learning and a desire for God. Our schools will provide an education that is “deeply Christian, with the promise by Jesus of life in all its fullness” that will enable all to have a clear understanding of Christian values in their journey through life
2. Our schools and church communities will demonstrate a desire to “serve the common good” and be role models for how Christians should live a life based on love and care for others
3. Our schools and church communities will support each other using a common language to support families to a “life enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ” (Going for Growth 2010)
4. To develop a sense of mutual belonging in both church community and school. We want our families to have access to the joy of being part of the church family through their experience in school

How will these be achieved?

Church of England Schools are not “faith schools” in so far as they do not exist solely to benefit their own congregations. Church schools are for families of the Christian faith, families of other faiths and families of no faith. We are here to serve our communities because of our faith. We give in response to the grace of God and as an act of service sharing the gift of our schools in faith, hope and love. We believe this is what enables all to live life in all its fullness.

A Church school and its partner church community will share the key teachings of the Christian faith and show those values in the way they live. This is offered as an invitation for all to engage and understand; whilst some may not choose to participate the opportunities remain and the experience is gained.

The need for training for both clergy and school leaders is crucial. Church and school partnership work should also be an aspect that is core to the recruitment processes of both organisations.

How do we measure success?

Quantifiable success is not easy to measure and this is not our top priority.

The most formal measure for success comes from using the SIAMS Inspection Framework which sets clear expectations of how a school is to develop a coherent and bible-based school vision that will impact positively on the lives of our children. The school’s partnership with the church is central in achieving this.

We also desire that children receive a deeper and regular experience of worship that offers a strong foundation for further, future spiritual growth. Their experience of faith should come through exposure to a living and distinctively school-based tradition. In so many ways school and church are united and not separate. Church happens within the school context as worshipping communities within the “household of faith”.

Informal measures such as positive pupil and parental engagement, stakeholder surveys, increased church attendance, increased participation and opportunities for initiation into the Church of England through baptism, preparation for first Holy Communion and Confirmation can also be useful indicators.

A Covenant between a School and its Parish

In order to maximise the opportunity that schools give us to fulfil God’s mission for the church, this Covenant between local churches and our schools represents the level of commitment required for a genuine partnership to have impact. In the case of secondary schools and schools linked to several parishes, it might be valuable to identify a “lead church community” to initiate the actions from this agreement.

1. A commitment to regular engagement, at least on a weekly basis, is required from both parties
2. The school will lead on safeguarding and the control of access to their pupils and the parish must comply with this
3. The church community will offer pastoral support in the form of (locally agreed) and any other urgent requests
4. The church community will willingly offer support in the worshipping life of the school and the school will identify opportunities to include the parish at appropriate points
5. The church community will explore all ways of practical support for the school
6. The school and the church community will engage together in at least one agreed campaign to serve the common good each year
7. The church community will support in school Governance as required
8. The school and church community will devise a shared plan to outline and develop their partnership work and review it annually
9. The governors of the school and the PCC will endeavour to achieve a strong understanding of the ownership and trustee responsibilities of all land and trusts related to the school
10. The church and school relationship will be highlighted in the parish profile during the recruitment process of a new priest. The parish priest will be expected to be an active part of the recruitment process for a new Headteacher

Signed

(on behalf of)

Signed

(on behalf of)

Date

Both partners can demonstrate their commitment by agreeing such a Covenant which is renewed when the Headteacher or the clergy changes and is reviewed annually.

Additional Information on how Schools and Churches Can Work Together more effectively

Strong partnerships between schools and their church communities are empowering. Schools can benefit greatly from the input and leadership that a church can provide, and the church can benefit from the engagement with the family and with young people.

Within this relationship, the church community has to acknowledge that the authority in relation to both access to the children and to school premises lies completely with the school and all activities are carried out within the prescribed guidelines that the Headteacher lays down, in accordance with stringent adherence to safeguarding guidance and Keeping Children Safe in Education. If there is a dispute in this it is strongly suggested this is referred to the Education Team at Diocesan Church House where advice is readily available.

We also acknowledge that many churches have developed strong relationships with community schools. Whilst the extent of partnership work may not look the same, it can be very meaningful and have significant impact. We hope that the sections below will assist, guide and inspire this type of work further.

We believe the following suggestions for building bridges help lead to an effective partnership between parish and school. For some they will see no barrier between the shared aims of both parish and school but for others their journey will be at an earlier stage.

We would recommend that the covenant document is signed annually by both school and parish. This could be part of an act of worship.

The Church community can:

1. Pray for the school regularly
2. Offer spiritual guidance and leadership
3. Provide pastoral support to the children, families, staff, leadership and friends of the school when invited
4. Take on school Foundation Governor roles when available
5. Guide in the establishment of a distinctively Christian ethos within the Anglican tradition
6. Help to lead collective worship as appropriate
7. Create a warm and hospitable environment that encourages the children to belong
8. Develop a deeper sense of the church's global mission and family through interaction with the parish's overseas support projects
9. Ensure the church building is accessible, safe and used by the school on an agreed regular basis
10. Join the school when they come to church to worship
11. Ensure that engagement with the school is a regular agenda item at PCC Meetings and hold one PCC meeting each year in the school to build a stronger sense of focus on the partnership

12. Partner with the school on local or global issues of social justice such as foodbanks and appeals
13. Explore all ways of practical support for the school including financial (i.e. helping to meet the cost of the Partnership Agreement with the Diocese of Chichester Education Team)
14. Use resources within the church congregation to get involved with listening to readers schemes, after school clubs and key initiatives such as Open the Book. (Safeguarding guidance will need to be given)
15. Provide congregation members for discussion sessions in classes i.e. interesting professions, cross generational history or PHSE projects or testimonies on how faith impacts on work and life sessions
16. Devise a shared plan on an annual basis to outline and develop partnership work
17. Involve the school in creating the parish profile
18. Ensure all the congregation know about the covenant

The School can:

1. Pray for the church community regularly
2. Offer support to church leaders
3. Partner with the church on local or global issues of social justice such as foodbanks and appeals
4. Invite suitable members of the congregation to lead and participate in collective worship and offer clear and supportive guidance regarding the expectations of the school to those who lead or attend school worship
5. Encourage the church to join in identified acts of worship in the school
6. Offer parents easy and friendly access to church
7. Through regular engagement the clergy and Foundation Governors need to be made to feel an intrinsic part of the school community
8. Share news regularly so the parish feels involved
9. Be actively involved with the drawing up of the parish profile
10. Visit the church building for worship as and when it is appropriate
11. Visit the church for RE education projects
12. Invite youth workers to share church-based events and run events in school
13. Report to Governors on the church/school links
14. Devise a shared plan on an annual basis to outline and develop partnership work
15. The school can help, host and resource holiday clubs run by the church or partner organisations.
16. Ensure all staff know about the covenant

Education Department

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LEARNING WITH MEANING AND PURPOSE
TO KNOW GOD AND SHAPE THE WORLD

**AGENDA ITEM 7. PARISH, SCHOOL, DIOCESAN AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE
TO THE COST OF LIVING AND ENERGY CRISIS**

Please see the document 'Practical suggestions to help parishes save energy and money' which follows.





Practical suggestions to help parishes save energy and money

DAC Conference, September 2022

This note has been created by the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, drawing extensively on existing work from Oxford Diocese, and with contributions from the Church Energy Advisors Network and attendees at the 2022 DAC Conference.

DAC Secretaries are invited to use this note as you wish for the benefit of your parishes. Please feel free to adapt it for your own needs, add local links, and share it through your networks. Individual tips might make useful tweets, whilst the whole document could form the basis of a webpage or handout. You are welcome to add your own diocesan logos.

<p>Watch:</p>	<p>Watch this useful webinar on “Housekeeping and Quick Wins”. It is full of practical advice. HOUSEKEEPING AND QUICK WINS - YouTube</p> 
<p>National guidance note:</p>	<p>For more information on energy efficiency, read the CofE energy efficiency guidance: ENERGY: (churchofengland.org)</p>
<p>Electricity and gas bills:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check on a winter energy bill that you are not paying more than 5% VAT. Most churches should be paying just 5%, and NO Climate Change Levy (CCL). The exceptions will be churches who hire their premises out commercially. • Check any Feed in Tariff (FiT) charge on your bills is correct • A dual rate electricity tariff can be an advantage for churches, but check your meter shows correct time and date • Switching to renewable energy is the aim, as we work towards net-zero carbon, but at the moment switching is difficult. Unless your contract is ending soon, you may wish to stay where you are, until prices settle. As circumstances change, speak to Parish Buying, to see if the Green Energy Basket can offer you a better deal.
<p>Know what you use:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly check your readings, and look for patterns; is something being left on which shouldn't be on overnight, or when the church is empty? • Smart meters can provide detailed use information to analyse. If you don't have one, speak to your energy company • Completing the CofE Energy Footprint Tool helps give an idea of where your church footprint falls against other similar churches Energy Footprint Tool The Church of England

<p>Maintenance:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keeping the building wind and water tight will reduce the energy needed to warm the buildings, and reduce bills. ● Gently dust/vacuum fan convector heater fins and grills on backs of fridges to increase efficiency ● Ensure your radiators can function efficiently; bleed radiators if cold at the top, have sludge flushed-out if cold at the bottom ● Get the boiler serviced (annual gas / oil boiler inspections are strongly encouraged, and may be required by your insurance provider) ● Fix leaking taps ● Keep radiators clear of furniture or other obstructions ● Clear gutters to prevent damp problems (remember damp = cold!) ● Tackle drafts: fix broken windows (even small breakages), consider fridge magnets over large keyholes, consider curtains across doors. But don't block air bricks or other intentional ventilation, and remember some windows may need to be open during a service to let condensation out. ● Mend leaks to prevent damp problems (damp = cold!) ● Insulate heating pipes and water tanks <p><i>NB some actions in these last 3 points may require permissions, so check against the latest List A and List B, with your archdeacon or the DAC first. (For Lists A&B, see page 55 onwards here https://www.churchofengland.org/media/27515)</i></p>
<p>Heating controls:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check your thermostat settings suit your needs; try turning them down a degree or 2 and see the response. ● If there are different heating circuits for different parts of the building, make sure they are not heating empty rooms, otherwise consider thermostatic valves on radiators. ● Check that the heating timings suit your current service times. Amend them when the clocks change. Many churches find they can turn the heating off 30-45 minutes before the service ends and still maintain comfort, because of the residual heat in the radiators. ● Check the frost setting on your boiler or thermostat, if you have one, and set it correctly. Read the guidance here Microsoft Word - Managing your frost protection v5 (churchofengland.org) ● If a dual burner, the high-flame setting should be set lower than the low-flame setting (see webinar above, at 16minutes)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add timers to heaters so they can't be left on by mistake ● If you have Drugasar, Temcana or similar heaters, check whether they have pilot lights. If they do then turn them off at the end of the heating season and on before the start of the next. The turn on should be carried out by a competent person, such as a Gas Safe Engineer to ensure the correct components are operating, including internal controls and external controls where applicable. This can save a lot. ● If radiators are next to walls, then consider putting insulating foil between the radiators and the walls

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you are providing background heating when the church is empty, and unless the fabric, fixtures and/or fittings require it, turn it down or off. Monitor for ill effects such as mould. ● If needed, and in smaller spaces such as meeting rooms or offices, try a dehumidifier to control damp rather than heating.
<p>Alternative heating:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider how to make people warm without heating the whole building. ● You may wish to purchase a set of heated cushions, heated blankets, and/or heated floor mats, to enable you to reduce the hours you run the main space heating for. (See case study: Marown Church tries a new approach: heated cushions The Church of England) Or use a few portable electric heaters, preferably of the infra-red variety that warm people quickly.
<p>Comfort:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add cushions to seats. This can be done without faculty under certain conditions (see below from the new List A): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (3) The introduction, removal or disposal of kneelers, hassocks, pew runners and cushions The introduction, removal or disposal of the articles does not result in a major change to the overall appearance of the church No article of historic or artistic interest is removed or disposed of ● Add breathable carpet matting on the floor. This can be done without faculty under certain conditions (see below from the new List A): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (6) The like for like replacement of carpet or the introduction or replacement of movable floor coverings between individual pews Only breathable material is used No article of historic or artistic interest is removed or disposed of ● Encourage people to sit away from walls, doors, and other draughts ● Encourage people to sit closer together, so that their natural warmth is shared. ● Can the welcome team keep the door closed more of the time? (This often works if the welcome team stand OUTSIDE the door and then open and close it for people. Offer them a hot water bottle or heated cushion.) ● Consider using a portable screen to reduce drafts from the door
<p>Church users:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check how light the building is before turning lights on. ● If you are regularly open for visitors consider motion-operated lights if not already in use. ● Turn off lights, computers/ monitors, printers, copiers etc when not in use ● Put signs next to lights, asking people to switch them off when leaving ● Create clear instructions for groups hiring the church ● If possible, plan your scheduling so that activities are back-to-back on fewer days, so that heating up from scratch happens less often ● Can service times be adjusted in winter, happening later in the morning or early afternoon, when the solar gain through the windows has had effect? ● Ensure thermostats are tamper proof or located where the general public cannot access ● Close doors when rooms not in use, and turn off radiators when rooms are vacant longer term (note - see previous comments on damp) ● Don't overfill urns and kettles ● Appoint volunteer champions to remind people (gently) to save energy

Lighting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all parts of the church need to be lit, for the current number of hours? • Consider reducing the hours/days your floodlighting runs for. Consult your community, who may be happy when they understand the need. Some churches turn floodlights off entirely except for special events / holidays. • Use dimmers if you have them. If lighting is LED, ensure that the correct type of dimmer is being used. • Switch bulbs to LED alternatives where possible, using a reputable brand (LEDs use up to 90% less energy). Start with simple bulb to LED lamp switches. More complicated lighting may require outside help. • See the CofE webinar here: Effective management of lighting towards net zero, from the CofE Environment Programme - YouTube
Appliances:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many dishwashers have an ‘eco’ setting, using less electricity and water • Make a plan to budget for energy efficient appliances when your current appliances fail • Energy labels have changed on most items; look for a rating of C or higher • Energy labels for ovens, tumble dryers, air conditioners, space and water heaters have not yet been updated so you’re still looking for A+ and above • Check that fridges and freezers do not need defrosting, and turn them off if there is nothing in them.
Water use:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water companies often provide free water saving gadgets which reduce waste and therefore bills. Speak to yours and see what they offer. • Where possible, check water temperatures are not higher than they need to be. turn down the water temperature somewhat.
If needed, consider alternative venues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may want to consider moving worship, meetings, and/or other activities into a smaller part of the church which is easier to heat, and where local heating is more effective, such as the chancel or the lady chapel. Some activities, such as PCC meetings and toddler groups, might be able to move to an alternative venue such as a school hall. • Live-streaming services held in the church may be a way to allow more vulnerable people to participate throughout the winter. • Some parishes may reach the point where they need to consider moving worship out of the church entirely during the coldest days of winter. There are significant legal, missional and policy implications to this, and other guidance covers this (to follow shortly from CBC and the Legal Office).
Plan ahead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a plan for your church using the free self-guided Praactical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Churches: The practical path to net zero carbon for churches The Church of England • Want an external view? Get a subsidised energy-audit from Parish Buying (or your own diocesan scheme) Parish Buying - Energy Audit

Further information:

- Case Studies: [Net Zero Carbon and Environmental case studies | The Church of England](#)
- Guidance: [Net zero carbon church | The Church of England](#)
- Net Zero Webinars : [Webinars on getting to net zero carbon | The Church of England](#)
- Fundraising: [Fundraising for Net Zero Carbon and the Environment | The Church of England](#)
- A Rocha UK Eco Church resources: [Resources - Eco Church \(arocha.org.uk\)](#)

AGENDA ITEM 9. DEANERY SYNOD ELECTIONS

AGENDA 9.A PROPOSED SCHEME OF REPRESENTATION FOR DEANERY SYNODS

Pursuant to Rule 19(2) of the Church Representation Rules, the numbers of parochial representatives of the laity to be elected from each parish in the Diocese to Deanery Synods shall be calculated by reference to the numbers of names on the rolls of the parishes as specified in the notification under Rule 10 in 2022 in accordance with the following table:

Number on electoral roll:	Number of lay representatives:
1 – 25	1
26 – 100	2
101 – 200	3
201 – 300	4
301 – 400	5
401 – 500	6
501 – 700	7
701 – 900	8
901 – 1,100	9
1,101 plus	10

This formula shall also apply to the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in Chichester and the Mission Initiatives operating under a Bishop’s Mission Order in accordance with the respective Schemes governing them.

AGENDA 9.B REPRESENTATION OF CATHEDRAL CLERGY AND LAITY ON DEANERY SYNOD

SCHEME for representation of the clergy and laity of Chichester Cathedral on the Chichester Deanery Synod

Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Church Representation Rules (“the CRR”) this Scheme is made by the Chichester Diocesan Synod to provide for representation from the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in Chichester (“the Cathedral”) to the Deanery Synod of Chichester (or such other Deanery Synod as the Cathedral may from time-to-time be geographically situated within) (“the Deanery Synod”), in substitution for the Scheme made on 20 May 2017:

Laity

1. The provisions of the CRR, as amended and supplemented by “*The Rules for the Governance of the Cathedral Community Roll and Committee*” approved by the Cathedral Chapter on 7 April 2014 (“the Cathedral Rules”) shall apply.
2. The diocesan formula from time-to-time in force for the election of lay representatives from parishes to deanery synods shall also apply for the election of lay representatives by and from the members of the Synodical Election Roll (as defined in the Cathedral Rules) to the House of Laity of the Deanery Synod as if the Synodical Election Roll were a parish electoral roll under Rule 1 of the CRR.
3. Members of the House of Laity of the General Synod who are ex officio members of Chichester Diocesan Synod in accordance with rule 32(1)(a) of the Rules and who are members of the Synodical Election Roll of the Cathedral (and who are not members of any parochial roll in the diocese) shall be ex officio members of the Deanery Synod (or such other deanery synod as the Bishop of Chichester may from time to time determine).
4. Members of the Chichester Diocesan Synod elected in accordance with rules 35 to 42 of the Rules and who are members of the Synodical Election Roll of the Cathedral (and who are not members of any parochial roll in the diocese) shall be ex officio members of the Deanery Synod (or such other deanery synod as the Bishop of Chichester may from time to time determine).
5. Each year on or before 30 June the Cathedral Roll Officer shall report to the Diocesan Secretary as to the number of names on the Synodical Election Roll.
6. On or before 1 December 2022 and every subsequent third anniversary thereof the Diocesan Secretary shall inform the Cathedral Roll Officer of the number of representatives the relevant Annual Meeting of the Cathedral is entitled to return to the house of laity of the Deanery Synod.

Clergy

7. The Canon Precentor, Canon Chancellor and Canon Treasurer shall be members of the house of clergy of the Deanery Synod (the Dean being an ex officio member under the CRR).

8. Any other clerk in Holy Orders licensed for the time being to a full-time post (as defined and certified by the Diocesan Bishop) at the Cathedral shall be a member of the house of clergy of the Deanery Synod unless s/he is already a member of that or another deanery synod within the Diocese of Chichester by virtue of another qualification.

General and Interpretation

9. Any amendments to the Cathedral Rules which affect the operation of this Scheme shall not be effective until approved by this Synod.

10. The Diocesan Bishop has power to determine any disputes or questions of interpretation arising from this Scheme, or to make provision for any related matter not herein provided for.

Made this Nineteenth day of November 2022

.....
The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner, Lord Bishop of Chichester
President of the Chichester Diocesan Synod

AGENDA 9.C REPRESENTATION OF CLERGY AND LAITY FROM MISSION INITIATIVES ON DEANERY SYNOD

SCHEME for representation of the clergy and laity from Mission Initiatives operating under a Bishop's Mission Order on Deanery Synods

Pursuant to Rule 24 of the Church Representation Rules ("the CRR") this Scheme is made by the Chichester Diocesan Synod to provide for representation from Mission Initiatives to deanery synods, in substitution for the Scheme made on 14 May 2016:

Laity

1. Where a sustained worshipping community has developed in the context of a Mission Initiative operating under a Bishop's Mission Order, the Leaders of the Mission Initiative shall establish and maintain a Mission Initiative Roll of lay habitual worshippers in the worshipping community ("the Mission Initiative Roll") in accordance with Rules 27A to 27D.
2. The diocesan formula from time-to-time in force for the election of lay representatives from parishes to deanery synod shall also apply for the election of lay representatives from Mission Initiatives to the House of Laity of the deanery synod of the deanery in which the Mission Initiative has its Primary Base.
3. Members of the House of Laity of the General Synod who are ex officio members of Chichester Diocesan Synod in accordance with rule 32(1)(a) of the Rules and who are members of the Mission Initiative Roll of a Mission Initiative (and who are not members of any parochial roll in the diocese) shall be ex officio members of the deanery synod of the deanery in which the Mission Initiative has its Primary Base (or such other deanery synod as the Bishop of Chichester may from time to time determine).
4. Members of the Chichester Diocesan Synod elected in accordance with rules 35 to 42 of the Rules and who are members of the Mission Initiative Roll of a Mission Initiative (and who are not members of any parochial roll in the diocese) shall be ex officio members of the deanery synod of the deanery in which the Mission Initiative has its Primary Base (or such other deanery synod as the Bishop of Chichester may from time to time determine).
5. Each year on or before 30 June the Leaders of the Mission Initiative shall report to the Diocesan Secretary as to the number of names on the Mission Initiative Roll.
6. On or before 1 December 2022 and every subsequent third anniversary thereof the Diocesan Secretary shall inform the Leaders of the Mission Initiative of the number of representatives the relevant meeting of the Mission Initiative is entitled to return to the house of laity of the deanery synod

7. Lay representatives shall be elected by and from the members of the Mission Initiative Roll at a duly convened meeting on a triennial basis in the same year as the equivalent elections for lay representatives from parishes.
8. Casual vacancies shall be filled by election at a further duly convened meeting of the members of the Mission Initiative Roll.

Clergy

9. A clerk in Holy Orders licensed for the time being to a Mission Initiative shall be a member of the house of clergy of the deanery synod of the deanery in which the Mission Initiative has its Primary Base unless s/he is already a member of that or another deanery synod by virtue of another qualification.

General and Interpretation

10. Primary Base means:
 - a. the location where the Mission Initiative meets for its primary weekly act of worship; or
 - b. if the Mission Initiative meets in a number of locations across two or more deaneries, such of those locations as the Diocesan Bishop may determine in writing.
11. “duly convened meeting” means a meeting called by the Leaders of the Mission Initiative on not less than 14 days’ written notice (and written notice shall be deemed to include notice in a publication distributed to the congregation at all acts of collective worship undertaken by the Mission Initiative).
12. The Diocesan Bishop has power to determine any disputes or questions of interpretation arising from this Scheme, or to make provision for any related matter not herein provided for.

Made this Nineteenth day of November 2022

.....
The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner, Lord Bishop of Chichester
President of the Chichester Diocesan Synod

AGENDA ITEM 10. REPORT FROM GENERAL SYNOD

July 2022 Group of Sessions

The Synod met on a hot weekend in York – from after lunch on Friday 8 July til lunchtime on Tuesday 14 July.

The Archbishop of York delivered the Presidential Address, reminding Synod members of the cost of following Christ and being his Church. We must be ready to suffer, he said, including the pain of being misunderstood in our mission. He drew our attention again to the Vision and Strategy programme (unveiled last year), and explained that at its heart is a call not so much to “more” but to centre our lives in Christ, in prayer and holiness.

On Friday afternoon, the Synod confirmed its commitment to the Church of England being carbon net-zero by 2030, an ambitious target given our number of schools and draughty churches across the nation. This target was agreed at a previous Synod in 2020, and now there was some debate as to whether it is properly realistic. Our own Martin Poole contributed to the debate, and the motion was carried.

On Saturday, Synod voted to reduce the number of members elected by the Diocese of Canterbury to the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for choosing the next Archbishop of Canterbury, and to increase representation from the Anglican Communion from one member to five. Canterbury Diocese itself have requested this change, to better reflect the nature of the office of ABC, whose responsibilities relate so closely to the wider Communion, not just the Church of England. Andrew Cornes’ amendment, that the majority of the five representatives from the wider Anglican Communion should come from a global-majority-heritage background, was passed.

Also on Saturday, Synod received a report from the Church Commissioners as to how money was being spent in their ministry-funded schemes. Chichester is among many Dioceses that have received grants from the Strategic Development Funding (SDF), enabling Apostolic Partnerships in Crawley and Brighton & Hove. This scheme, along with Lowest Income Communities Funding (LICF) was brought in in 2014, and of the 69 projects agreed under SDF so far, only six have reached their completion – arguably still too early therefore to draw lasting conclusions about the whole scheme. Synod heard movingly from both clergy and lay members on the ground who are benefitting from this sources of funding, for example in Swindon and Birmingham. Synod asked for a further review of these funding streams in 2024, at which point we will have had longer to see their success or otherwise.

After a service at York Minster, Synod gathered on Sunday afternoon to break into groups and get used to talking about Issues of Human Sexuality, which is set to come before Synod in 2023, through the Living in Love and Faith Process.

Later in the afternoon, Simon Eyre (Chichester member) introduced his private member’s motion, calling on the government to increase funding for palliative care services, and maintain the current law against assisted dying. Simon, as a retired GP, spoke with great authority, pointing out that lack of funding for hospices potentially has a direct impact on

the pressure to change the law: people might choose to end their lives prematurely rather than suffer, because of the diminishing quality of palliative-care services. The motion was overwhelmingly carried.

On Monday, Synod carried a motion to work towards the removal of all remaining barriers to full participation for disabled people in the life and ministry of the Church. The Disability Task Group (who put forward the motion) point to barriers in areas such as liturgies (eg the rubric “All Stand”), DACs (each diocese to include at least one suitably experienced disabled person in its DAC membership), and disability advice.

The General Synod’s Business Committee is to review the requirements for PCC membership and entry on an electoral roll. It is said that the requirement for PCC members to be “communicants” can be difficult for Fresh Expression-type churches, or those of a non-eucharistic tradition. More to follow on this at a later date, I suspect!

The final morning of Synod included a debate about changes to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM). The current process is to be replaced. One of the reasons that the present process is deemed not fit for purpose (said the Archbishop of Canterbury) is that it fails to distinguish between misconduct and accidental error, therefore putting punishments ‘out of sync’ with the crime. Changes include, 1) publications of penalties will no longer be the responsibility of Dioceses (to publish on their website) but now the responsibility of the CDM tribunal itself, through the C of E website. 2) CDM proceedings can now be run in parallel to a criminal case and an employment-tribunal case (rather than automatically pausing to let them run their course first).

General Synod is an array of fringe meetings, debates in Chamber, taking note of reports, and meeting lots of interesting people over mealtimes and freetime. I hope this gives you a little flavour of some of the business we got up to

Archie Coates and Camilla Foottit (July 2022)

AGENDA ITEM 11. REPORT ON THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL

Bishop's Council has met twice since the last Diocesan Synod, in July at the Bishop's Palace Chichester (also available on Zoom) and October in Church House.

In July Council received the Annual Education Report from Trevor Cristin, he reported that there had been a high turnover of headteachers but that working closely with governors good appointments had been made. He noted that all four diocesan trusts needed to grow as per government guidelines. The DBE was about to make the required transformation and an election about to take place. All of the diocesan trusts have a missional approach and are keen to support vulnerable schools particularly small schools. Bishop Martin thanked Trevor and all his team for all their hard work on behalf of the diocese.

Strategic Development Fund Stuart Britton spoke on this project. St Peter's Brighton was to launch 4 new church partnerships and All Saints Hove were working on apostolic partnerships, this has become particularly important since the reduction in congregations following the pandemic. Within this project there was some movement of worshippers between churches but also new Christians joining.

Council received an update report on Safeguarding and Serious Incidents

Budget 2023 Tim Redding reported that the budget was based on an increase of 3.7% in the parish share figures that had been pledged in 2022. He expressed huge appreciation of parishes for what they have pledged and paid in 2022, however it is hoped that more parishes will aim to get to 100% PMC and also more to get above that figure. The budget was agreed. Council received a paper on the Five Year Outlook and reviewed venues for the Diocesan Synod.

2025 Anniversary Bishop Martin spoke of the anniversary, of Chichester Cathedral being the first Cathedral dedicated to the Trinity and of the refurbishment of the Palace to serve the needs of parishes, schools and charities. This corresponds to the 1,700 years of the Nicene creed.

Part Time Clergy Bishop's Council noted the distinct ways dioceses approached arrangements for part time clergy.

Elections and Appointments Council approved suggested appointments to various committees and the new DBE elections.

Council approved a number of diocesan policies and discussed the Risk Register which will be revisited at the December meeting.

Bishop Martin thanked Tim Redding for his time with the diocese and wished him well in his new post, he particularly thanked Tim for 'making the financial information easy to understand and follow'.

Council ended with prayers from Bishop Martin.

On October 6th Council met at Church House Hove. Council began with prayer and a short homily from Bishop Martin talking about the 1st letter of Peter Chapter 3, a statement about being a Christian and Christian Hope.

Bishop Martin then thanked Anthony Demby for his invaluable work in the Finance Department in the interim between Tim Redding leaving and Catherine Dawkins joining at the end of October.

We received an excellent report from Paul Doick and Emma Arbuthnot on Church Buildings and Pastoral Organisation (DAC) and Fundraising. After a drop in Faculty application during the pandemic things were returning to normal and the team has increased the number of parishes they are able to visit. Faculty Jurisdiction rules were revised earlier this year, these will support the church's commitment to working towards Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030. They reported that there are a number of exciting environmental projects over the diocese, energy saving but also affordable heating ideas. Funding for repairs is becoming more difficult, particularly for the many churches and church halls in the diocese built in the 1950s – 1970s, these are now requiring work or even rebuilding and it is a challenge to raise funds for these projects. There is also a lack of funding for net zero works which may be expensive, there was hope that support may be available for churches wishing to achieve this. Canon Mark Gilbert thanked the DAC for all their hard work and Council agreed all the new appointments.

Colin Perkins and Martin Richards presented their Annual Safeguarding Report, they reported that the present team is high quality and working well together. This is a very encouraging report which comes from years of hard work and building capacity. The National Past Cases Review had been published, the findings go back as far as the 1940 until the present, when new cases appear although sad it shows that we are still looking and dealing with past cases and are relentless in the investigation of any cases, not all cases are of sexual abuse. It was reported that compliance levels for PTO clergy had doubled every quarter this year, they were asked to do different levels of training depending on their roles. It was felt that Chichester Diocese is strongly getting the Safeguarding message across.

The Minutes of the Previous Bishop's Council Meeting were agreed, there were no Matters Arising.

Budget and PMC: Lesley Lynn presented the Budget for 2023. Budget costs were up 1% on a significantly reduced deficit budget, a great deal better than the last 5 years. Stipends will be increased by 5% as will Church House staff salaries.

Council agreed a draft Diocesan Synod Agenda.

Council discussed Energy Costs and support for Clergy. Funds have been made available from the Church Commissioners for clergy in hardship. There are plans to do work on parsonages houses to make them more energy efficient and three projects are either

started or planned, the aim is to see what will work best, including investigating air source heat pumps and solar panels. Work has been underway for many years for example on double glazing and improved insulation. Chichester Diocese is the 5th highest in sending back energy returns and some parishes have won awards, 1 x gold award, a few silver and 92 bronze awards. Hope was expressed that funding for parishes would also be made available from the Church Commissioners. Bishop Martin reminded Council that these grants are not for every church to expect a small grant but more that we should think about how we look after each other.

It was reported that a General Synod vacancy was to be filled and a plea was made for other vacancies on sub-committees to be filled.

Council approved the Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

There being no other business the meeting finished at 7.45 with prayer.

Mrs Sara Stonor, October 2022