

Paper 1

Bishop's Council Update

There have been five meetings of the Bishop's Council since the last Diocesan Synod in March. The key discussion points are summarised in this paper unless covered elsewhere on the agenda for this Synod.

Risk Register

The Risk Register has been reviewed by the Bishop's Council and is regularly updated by the Heads of Department. Several changes have been made to the document in light of the pandemic. The risk register is also being scrutinised by a risk register consultant at National Church and we await her feedback which will inform Bishop Council's risk management considerations moving forward but significant progress has been made in this regard since the autumn of 2020.

Committee Membership

The Bishop's Council approved changes to committee membership of the Diocesan Finance Executive Committee (DFEC) and the Investment Advisory Group (IAG). After many years of service, the chair of the IAG, Michael Oakley, has resigned from his position and from the committee. Thanks were expressed by the Bishop's Council on behalf of the Diocese. Bishop's Council approved Paul Mitchell, an existing member of the IAG, as chair of the committee.

Diocesan Giving Strategy

Chris Parker, Diocesan Stewardship Advisor, brought the Diocesan Giving Strategy to the Bishop's Council, which the council supported. The document reflects the Diocesan Live|Pray|Serve vision and our purpose to grow in depth, impact and number. This will be communicated more widely by the Stewardship Adviser who will continue to support parishes locally.

Parish Share

The impact of the pandemic on parish share payments and finances was looked at by Bishop's Council. The outturn for 2020 was much better than originally predicted and we are hugely grateful to parishes for their generosity and commitment to reach 89% of the overall ask for 2020.

The next steps are to ascertain the extent to which the outcomes were reached by reserves versus how much was related to parish giving. The outcome will assist in shaping the cashflow forecasts moving forward.

Live|Pray|Serve

Bishop's Council met on 8th June and the content of that discussion is reflected in paper 2 and will be discussed in that item of the agenda.