

7th December 2022

- Opening worship was led by Bishop Michael and condolences were expressed following the recent death of David Beswick.
- Bishop Michael reported that the Revd Paul Thomas had been appointed to the See of Oswestry and would be consecrated on 2nd February 2023. It was noted that the membership of Bishop's Council should be looked at in the light of this appointment as a Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese.
- As had been requested by Council, Simon Hudson gave a detailed presentation on Shallowford House, its work, recent developments, and future plans. Members were encouraged by this.
- A proposal that the Core Finance Group and its emergency powers put in place at the beginning of the pandemic should now be rescinded was approved. A group would meet monthly to ensure that cash flow and budget performance continued to be carefully monitored.
- Bishop Sarah reported that there was to be a review of the work of Transforming Communities Together in the first quarter of 2023. This was following the recent resignation of the Chief Officer and changes to funding.
- The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Asset Management Committee (FAM) held on 2nd November 2022 were noted.
- A write-off application in respect of Bereton and Rugeley was approved.
- There was an initial discussion around Total Return Approach. No decision or vote was sought at this stage.
- It is its capacity as the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, a Schemes and Orders update and a Suspension report were noted.
- A proposal in respect of Shobnall St Aidan, Burton was approved for recommendation to Bishop Michael by a vote, with 2 abstentions.
- Proposals in respect of Cheddleton, Horton, Longsdon and Rushton Spencer; Biddulph; Bagnall with Endon; Leek and Meerbrook were approved for recommendation to Bishop Michael by a vote, with 1 abstention.

15th February 2023

- Opening worship was led by the Bishop of Wolverhampton and it was acknowledged that this was his last meeting before retirement.
- The Chair of the Board of Finance introduced the first part of the meeting whereby members acted in their capacity as the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance Council.
- The minutes of the meetings of the Finance and Asset Management Committee (FAM) on 18th January 2023 were noted.
- A verbal update was given by the Chair of the DBE Committee in which he noted the recent resignation of the Diocesan Director of Education, and the welcome news that the King's School,

Wolverhampton would be joining Three Spires Trust on 1st April. There continued to be concerns regarding some schools in the St Chad's Academies Trust.

- A proposal that the Board should put in place a policy to fully divest from fossil fuel investments was approved.
- The Finance Director spoke to a paper on Total Return Approach, and members gave their approval for the matter to progress to the next stage of the governance process.
- Write-off applications in respect of Chell, of Norton-le-Moors and of Leek, St Luke and St Paul were approved.
- In its capacity as the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, members noted a Schemes and Orders update and a Suspension/Restriction report.
- Issues relating to vacancies on Bishop's Council and on Diocesan Investment Group were discussed and would be considered further.
- Members divided into groups to discuss the implications of recent decision of General Synod regarding Living in Love and Faith and comments were collected.
- In a further discussion of education matters, the Chair of the DBE Committee noted that:
 - The Department for Education was pushing forward with academisation, with which the DBE was fully engaged.
 - The DBE were to begin work on looking at the Risk Register in its own context.
 - The aim was to appoint an interim Director of Education during the interregnum following Claire Shaw's departure.
 - The DBE was working with the Methodist Academy Trust in respect of the future of Hob Hill School, which was a joint CE and Methodist School in Rugeley.
- The Diocesan Secretary gave an update on Transforming Communities Together (TCT). It was likely that TCT would cease to be an autonomous charity and work was underway looking at how the work could be reintegrated into the DBF.

JD February 2023