

Diocesan Synod – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024  
Standing Committee Report

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

- Opening worship was led by the Revd Matt Wallace.
- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Matters Arising were raised by Chris Gill, regarding the suggested reduction on size of Bishop's Council, and by Amanda Robbie regarding Clergy Wellbeing.
- In an update on the new Strategic Framework, the recruitment of The Revd Canon Nick Smeeton as Strategy Programme Director, was announced starting in September. Also the recruitment of a Director of Communications was in its final stages, and interviews for the Net Carob Zero role were soon to take place. Managers would be meeting for a strategy day on 30th May and Area staff were to run days for PCCs in June and July.
- Julie Jones paid tribute to Pete Bate and his work since 2016, and she asked for members' prayers for him and his wife, Lisa as his treatment continued.
- Bishop Michael gave an update on the West Midlands Racial Justice Board and the appointment of the Revd Dr Evie Vernon as Director. There were a range of other posts to be recruited to. The Board consisted of 2 representatives from each diocese, and he had nominated Mr Andy Winter and the Revd Treena Larkin to represent us.
- Bishop Matthew spoke to a previously circulated paper which set out the details of a project in Stoke-on-Trent for which it was proposed to bid for national (SMMIB) funding. After discussion a vote was held on approval in principle for the bid to progress, and this was clearly carried.
- As the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC), members noted a report on Suspensions and Restrictions. Also noted was an update on schemes and orders, including a verbal update on the proposed Leek Deanery reorganisation, which was now delayed.
- The DMPC also approved:
  - a proposal in respect of Forton; Newport with Longford, at Chetwynd involving the union of benefices with the parishes to remain distinct;
  - a proposal to bring Hodnet into the Cheswardine Team Ministry, involving the termination of the team ministry, the union of benefices and the establishment of a new team ministry;
  - a proposal in respect of Willenhall St Anne, involving the termination of plurality with Willenhall Saint Giles, the dissolution of the benefice/parish of Willenhall Saint Anne and transferring the parish area to Willenhall Saint Giles, amending the name of the benefice/parish and closure of Willenhall Saint Anne for regular public worship;
  - a proposed Scheme for a Joint Council in respect of Badger, Beckbury, Ryton, Kemberton, Stockton and Sutton Maddock.
- A review of the Connect2 BMO was deferred and was likely to be carried out by email in due course.
- Meeting as the Diocesan Board of Finance Council, the chair of the DBF spoke to the minutes of the Finance and Assets management Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> April. There were no questions on these.

- The Finance Director presented the Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. These were approved to go forward to Diocesan Synod.

JD June 2024