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GROW FAITH • BRING HOPE • DEMONSTRATE LOVE
DIOCESE OF ST ASAPH

Standing Committee Bulletin 21: 30 March 2022 via Zoom

Llyr Williams as chair welcomed everyone to Standing Committee (SC) via Zoom.



Martin Batchelor opened with a reflection that reminded us all about the importance of looking outwards to the communities that we're called to serve.

Matters Arising

Sarah Wheat explained **This Works!** and encouraged people to share their resources and ideas. Visit <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-in-action/this-works/> for more information.

You can watch the film from The Outpost, the shop in St Paul's Church, Rhosesmor at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-in-action/this-works/this-works-films/>

Grants Committee

Diane McCarthy The Grants Committee is keen to promote the grants available from the diocese and would like case studies for use on the website. Please send details of where a grant has made a difference in your MA to Dianemccarthy@cinw.org.uk

Diocesan Elections

Diane McCarthy: Information has gone out to MAs about this year's elections. There is also a page on the website at

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/elections/>

SC is reminded that the pattern of meetings will change in 2023 to evenings and weekends to encourage a more diverse membership.

Developing a fresh Diocesan Strategy

Diane McCarthy: Bishop Gregory (who was unable to attend SC) has launched his manifesto. Copies are being distributed to every MA and it's available online in English and Welsh at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-hope-love/> Bishop Gregory is keen that all regular worshippers have a physical copy of the manifesto put into their hands. Additional copies are available. Please contact the diocesan office if you need more or haven't received your allocation yet.

Peter Lewis asked if, on page 2, the 55 licensed lay ministers included Worship Leaders.

Diane: No. Worship Leaders are commissioned lay leaders and there are hundreds in the diocese.

Faith Hope and Love (FHL) Course

Archdeacon Barry explained the new course which will be launched at the end of May. Barry and Andy will work with MALs to explain how to facilitate the course. There are 5 sessions, each about an hour long.





Session 1: Telling our Stories.

Session 2: Faith and how it shapes our lives

Session 3: Hope and the expectation of change

Session 4: Love and the power to transform

Session 5: Choice and the creation of new possibilities.

The format is enjoyable yet challenging for participants. Ben and Catrin Lines introduce and present the course. Bishop Gregory does a short reflection and then the course hears from people from across the diocese. Participants then get a chance to discuss together their own experiences.

Mission Hub Churches

Martin Batchelor explained the new Mission Hub Churches, focusing on his own experience in Mold, so far. The three hubs (Mold, Penrhyn Bay and Welshpool) will develop mission and grow the church. They are a five-year project. Martin is looking to develop the music and worship in Mold, they're recruiting a youth worker and have an opportunity to work with Mold Alun High School. He's launched a START course with 13 people signing up. Eight of them have no church background at all.



Mission Area Reviews

Andy Grimwood: The MA Action Plans will be discussed as part of the clergy reviews beginning in May. They will be reviewed in terms of the diocesan strategy, faith hope love. This isn't about doing new things; it's

about pulling together existing action plans.

SC discussed these ideas in breakout rooms and gave the following feedback:

Paulette Gower: Pleased that FHL was not a new initiative and is building on what is going on already and lessons from the pandemic. Liked what they heard of the FHL course; liked that it was story and experience-led rather than knowledge-led. Asked for the definition of a mission hub church and asked how it connected with the wider Archdeaconry? How will they help and support a MA?

Sandra Davies: Excited about the launch of the manifesto and thought it was a great way to shine a light on the diocese. Excited by the shop at Rhosesmor and a new way of connecting with the local community.

The course is a good resource but how will we reach out to people who don't normally engage? Perhaps the course needs to run more than once.

Juliet Fraser: There was positive feedback especially for *This Works*. It was noted however, that it will be a challenge for those not online. *This Works* can link churches together and help them get to know each other. Positive talk about the FHL course and looking forward to it.

Jason Bray: There was lots of positive discussion, although some MAs are still to receive copies of the manifesto. The course received positive feedback but asked how the manifesto fits with the course?

Michael Plane: Writing MA action plans has been a good and positive thing for many MAs but inevitably there's been some upset as changes are made. The Manifesto looks good. How will we get people to attend the FHL course?

Karen Maurice: The Manifesto looked good and wasn't too heavy going! Some





MA's hadn't received copies of the manifesto yet. People who'd seen the course enjoyed it and thought it would work well as an ice-breaker course or starter course.

Future Archdeaconry Arrangements

See the paper for this agenda item.

Barry Wilson

outlined Bishop Gregory's paper asking if a new Archdeacon of Wrexham



should be recruited. John Lomas's election as Bishop of Swansea and Brecon left a gap. Do we replace him and if so, what are the financial implications? What will ministry look like in the future?

The paper recommends continuing with the current interim arrangement (Andy and Barry are covering the Wrexham MA's) and deciding in November.

Peter Lewis: given the initiatives ongoing, it would be prudent to delay any decision until Autumn.

Rebecca Sparey-Taylor: If MDRs are taking so long, is this the best use of an Archdeacon's time? I'm not convinced we should only have two Archdeacons.

Andy Grimwood: After Easter I will do MA Reviews, then June and July is booked with clergy reviews. But should archdeacons be doing clergy reviews? Do our work patterns need to change?

Barry: We need to work smarter. What takes the time is the admin and booking all the appointments. The bishop's PA is now helping with this.

Nigel Williams: If you remember we spent a lot of time creating a job description. Andy, Barry and John were the best people to put that into practice but they are not able to live out that role. We've

got to look at it again. Appointing lots of archdeacons will not grow the church!

Ros Crawford agreed with Nigel and Barry. She's concerned that the archdeacons have lots to do at the moment and we don't want burn out. We need to look after their welfare.

Stuart Evans: Do MALs have a view of this and why haven't Archdeacons been able to live out the role to which they were appointed?

Anne Hooper: In my past, any line management process included the need to be doing the supervision and the proposal would be – if the archdeacons weren't doing them, then it would fall to the MALs. I would have no problem with that, but, if that decision is made, there will need to be lots of support and training for MAL.



Barry: I think Andy and I have worked hard to fulfil the criteria. The job advert focused on mission, but we can only help create the context for the church to grow. The reality is that the church has been in decline for decades. We need cultural and structural change to begin to grow the church. In some ways Covid has helped us strip away all the false securities.

Andy: Our key role is getting out there and supporting the people on the frontline. My skills are motivating and inspiring people but we as Archdeacons have a number of legal responsibilities in the CinW (eg signing off risk assessments!). We need to go back to the job description.





67% voted to maintain the interim pattern for the time being and return to the discussion in November.

Report from the Nurturing Steering Group

Jennie Downes, Schools Officer presented an update on Church Schools.

Wales now has a different RE curriculum to England called Religion, Value and Ethics that sits within humanities. It offers a much richer and more expanded notion of exploring faith/spirituality. It asks: who are we, why are we here and how then do we live?

St Peter's School in Rossett has been looking at refugees and Jennie showed an inspirational film of their project.

Stuart Evans: A question to us as Standing Committee: the Nurturing Steering Group hasn't met for a while yet there's clearly plenty of good stuff happening in schools: do we need the Nurturing Steering Group?

Diane McCarthy outlined the plans for schools and youth work for the future. Rosalind Williams, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has now moved on from the diocese. Diane acknowledged all she has done and wished her all the best for the future. Diane paid tribute to the education team, the Statutory Board of Education and Bishops Visitors during Roz's extended leave of absence.



Going forward, we will be separating out the schools' work from youth and children's ministry. We are hoping to appoint a new director of education who will look after schools across St Asaph and Bangor dioceses. Bishop Mary Stallard, the

Asst Bishop of Bangor, now has the education portfolio for the CinW.

Children's and Youth work is developing at pace now. Hannah Daniels has been appointed as Diocesan Children's and Youth Officer. There are exciting plans for youth work in the mission hub churches, and Coleg Cambria has just appointed a new lead Chaplain. This is an exciting time as we move forward.

Asaph 1450

Nigel Williams: 2023 will be 1450 years since the consecration of St Asaph and the establishment of this diocese. How do we celebrate this? Bishop Gregory is very keen to mark it and has written a paper to accompany this agenda item. What is the best way to mark this occasion? Is one gathering a good idea as we marked the Millennium or should we have smaller gatherings? Should this be the focus for the Diocesan Conference? See the accompanying paper for more details.

SC was given the opportunity to discuss the suggestions in breakout rooms and gave the following feedback:

Pam Powell: She and others remember the millennium event at Llangollen Pavilion and thinks it could be an opportunity to create something similar. Llangollen is a good mid-point in the diocese. However, this was a major event with planning underway well in advance. It would also need to be well resourced. Could each Archdeaconry create an event based at the Mission Hub Churches? The Cathedral is also the obvious place for an event. Generally, the group were enthusiastic and thought it should be celebrated.

Nigel: We didn't feel one event would have the buy in. We wouldn't have people coming out in numbers. We thought it should be a series of events over the summer. If resources were prepared, each MA could decide how to celebrate. Focusing on a fifth Sunday might be a





good idea. We didn't think the sale of merch would cover the costs!

Will Marshall: The group was positive about the idea but felt it had to do something beyond itself. It wouldn't work as a missional idea – people outside the church wouldn't be interested. Many areas value their local church but don't look beyond. One big central event could be good if well organised and well launched. It could be used to promote Faith, Hope, Love – training by stealth! If a big event wasn't possible, then a focus for the Diocesan Conference would be helpful.

Roz Crawford: The Cathedral should be the focus as it's St Asaph Cathedral. The schools and youth groups should be involved in some way. A week of celebrations at the Cathedral – start on the Sunday in your own church building up to the Cathedral. Adding a marquee to the Cathedral could be needed. The cost is a worry.

Sandra Davies: would there be an appetite for such a big event in Llangollen? Perhaps a service in the Cathedral and then a picnic outside? How do we gauge interest – perhaps take a survey? How will this help the church grow? If that's our mission, should we be more outward focused? How do we bring in young people and music? What's the purpose of the event – that's the question we asked.

Juliet Fraser: one of the things which came up was the cost. If we can't afford a third archdeacon, is this the best use of our resources? Could it be incorporated into the Diocesan Conference. MA events weren't thought likely to be of interest. The Cathedral should be the focal point for a celebration. This is only of interest to the church family; how could it be missional?

Vacancy on the DBF: Kevin Weston was voted onto the DBF to represent the archdeaconry of Wrexham

Matters Raised by the MAs

Question by **Sue Huyton** regarding safeguarding. (See accompanying paper.)

Hannah Daniels replied regarding lay safeguarding (Michael Balkwill looks after DBS matters for



clergy). An audit is underway to update the safeguarding database. Each MA has been asked to respond and those who have moved, changed roles or died have been removed from the database. We are making good progress with this. The RB has appointed Rebecca Murphy to oversee compliance to support the MAs.

Anthony Griffiths, Director of Safeguarding, has prepared a draft document: Introduction to Safeguarding. This has been circulated and you are encouraged to comment.

Denbigh Mission Area is going to be part of a pilot to test a new microsite that is under development.

Safeguarding training is provided by Emma Leighton-Jones and is mostly online. Emma can also arrange face to face training.

Clergy all have to complete the CinW specific training so they are aware of our processes, even if they have completed training from the Church of England.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 28 June at St Matthew's Church Hall in Buckley. The first in-person meeting since November 2019.

Nigel Williams closed in prayer.

Further information.

All the papers to accompany this meeting can be found at:

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/standing-committee/>

