

# The Diocese of St Asaph

## – how it works

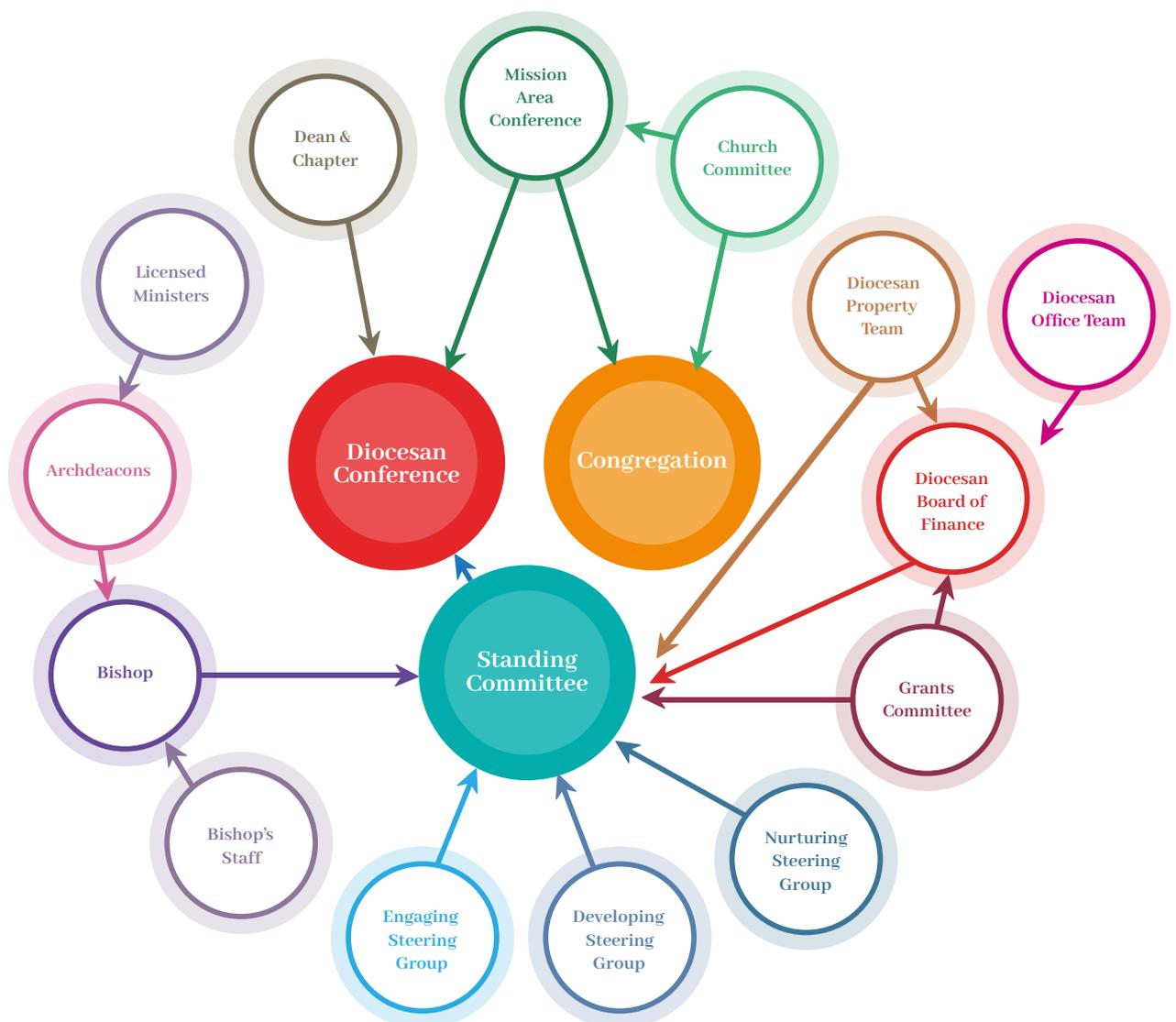
### Introduction

The Diocese of St Asaph is one of six dioceses in the Church in Wales, which is an autonomous Province within the worldwide Anglican Communion of Churches. The Diocese is a community of 229 churches covering the counties of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham and parts of Gwynedd and Powys. It looks after 51 schools, including one shared faith secondary school.

This leaflet is designed to guide you through the structure of the Diocese of St Asaph, identifying the relationships between the various groups, conferences, committees and roles with authority and influence.

Each grouping will be defined; its remit outlined; its accountability clarified and its membership explained. Where appropriate, information explaining how to get involved will be given.

### Organogram - showing **accountability** between groups



This diagram shows only the lines of accountability between the various bodies. The congregations along with the Diocesan Conference and its executive arm, the Standing Committee, occupy the centre of the diocese. All groups are accountable to the Diocesan Conference, either directly or via its Standing Committee.

# Groups and their accountability in the Diocese of St Asaph



## Diocesan Conference

**What is it?** The Diocesan Conference is the governing body of the Diocese of St Asaph.

**What does it do?** It meets annually for a full day conference with day to day business delegated to the Standing Committee. It is responsible for the business of the diocese and electing diocesan representatives to provincial groups.

**How is it accountable?** The Diocesan Conference is empowered to manage its own affairs and is subject to the direction and control of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales.

**How do people join?** Each church is represented at the conference by a delegate elected for a three year term by each Mission Area Conference (MAC). Those representatives are responsible for representing the views of their Church Committee and congregation, and reporting the business of the diocese back to their MAC, Church Committee and congregations. In addition, all clergy in the Diocese, ex-officio members, nominated members and co-opted members as determined by the Constitution also attend. All members have voting rights.



## Standing Committee

**What is it?** Standing Committee is the executive committee of the Diocesan Conference.

**What does it do?** It meets four times a year to debate and vote on matters of diocesan policy, strategy and structure and to authorise action.

**How is it accountable?** It is accountable to the Diocesan Conference.

**How do people join?** Every MAC elects one lay member and one clerical member (from its Diocesan Conference representatives) to the Standing Committee. There are also ex-officio members as determined by the Constitution of the Church in Wales and the constitution of the Diocesan Conference.



## Congregation

**What is it?** All churches across the Diocese have a congregation.

**What does it do?** The congregation is the people participating in the life of the church.

**How is it accountable?** Each church is part of a Mission Area. Congregations can nominate and elect members to the Church Committee and MAC.

**How do people join?** All churches are open to all - everyone is welcome.



## Church Committee

**What is it?** Each church can set up a Church Committee.

**What does it do?** The Church Committee will be responsible for the day to day running of its property, finance and other local matters.

**How is it accountable?** The Church Committee is accountable to the congregation and the Mission Area Conference (MAC).

**How do people join?** To be eligible for the Church Committee you must be a communicant member of the church and on the Electoral Roll.

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## Mission Area Conference (MAC)

As part of 2020 Vision, Deaneries are evolving into Mission Areas (MA). By 2017 all churches will be in a MA.

**What is it?** Each MAC is an individual charity governed by charity law and the constitution of the Church in Wales.

**What does it do?** A MAC sets the strategic direction of the MA. It will have the powers of both the former Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Conference and will promote the whole mission of the Church. It will identify and review the needs of the Mission Area in respect to people, finance, buildings and property.

**How is it accountable?** The MAC is accountable to the Diocesan Conference.

**How do people join?** Representatives from each church within the MA are elected to the MAC for a term of three years. Two MA wardens will be appointed and will act as lay co-chairs of the MAC.

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## Dean and Chapter

**What is it?** The Dean and Chapter is the trustee body responsible for running the Cathedral. The Cathedral is the Mother Church of the diocese.

**What does it do?** Manages the financial affairs, mission and ministry of the Cathedral.

**How is it accountable?** Ultimately the Dean and Chapter are responsible to the Province via the Diocesan Conference

**How do people join?** The Dean is a senior clerical position within the diocese. The Chapter is appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Dean. The Cathedral has a congregation and everyone is welcome.

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## Licensed Ministers

Licensed Ministers includes all ordained priests, deacons and licensed lay ministers in the diocese. There are currently approximately 90 priests, most of whom work full time but some have careers outside the church, or are retired and work as fully trained priests in a voluntary capacity. Every member of the clergy attends the Diocesan Conference. There are also licensed lay ministers such as readers, evangelists and pastoral chaplains.

Licensed Ministers are accountable to their local Archdeacon and the Bishop.

If you feel called to Licensed Ministry, either lay or ordained, you can find out more at <http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/life/steering-groups/developing/>



## Archdeacons

The Diocese of St Asaph is split into three geographical areas, known as archdeaconries: St Asaph, Wrexham and Montgomery, each overseen by an Archdeacon. Each archdeaconry is split into Mission Areas. Archdeacons are priests who share in the Bishop's oversight of the clergy and licensed ministers in their archdeaconry. They also support Mission Areas in relation to building and finance issues.



## Bishop

The Bishop is called to have oversight of the diocese; to lead and teach, but also to perform certain tasks, such as ordaining and licensing the church's Ministers, authorising different ministries on behalf of the Church, and confirming Christians.

The Bishop of St Asaph is elected by a group of church members called the Electoral College. The College is made up of six members elected by each diocese (three lay members and three clergy), with twelve members elected by the diocese to which the Bishop is being elected. With the other bishops, this makes a college of 47. A two thirds majority is required to elect a bishop.



## Bishop's Staff

Bishop's Staff maintain a holistic overview of the strategic and operational planning for the diocese. It meets and consults monthly on matters of shared diocesan importance. The group supports the bishop's ministry and is accountable to the Diocesan Conference via its Standing Committee.

Bishop Staff comprises the Bishop, the three Archdeacons, the Dean of St Asaph Cathedral, the Diocesan Secretary, the Bishop's Chaplain and others by invitation of the Bishop.

# Steering Groups

The strategic functions of the Diocese have been split into three steering groups which are accountable to the Diocesan Conference via its Standing Committee.

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## Engaging Steering Group

### Engaging Steering Group

The remit of the engaging steering group is to stimulate and resource congregations to speak and act on matters of social action and justice in the world. You can find out details at: <http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/life/steering-groups/engaging/>

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## Developing Steering Group

### Developing Steering Group

The purpose of the Developing Steering group is to encourage and oversee transformational ministry and training for all clergy and lay across the diocese. You can find out details at: <http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/life/steering-groups/developing/>

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## Nurturing Steering Group

### Nurturing Steering Group

The role of the Nurturing Steering Group is to encourage and grow the Christian faith, development and spirituality of children, young people and adults. You can find out details at: <http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/life/steering-groups/nurturing/>

Membership of each steering group is open to anyone with the right skills. When necessary each group advertises to fill a skills gap.

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## Diocesan Board of Finance

### Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF)

The DBF is the legal body which cares for the property and finance of the diocese. It promotes the work and purpose of the Church in Wales, in particular the Diocese of St Asaph. It is the employer of diocesan staff and the legal body responsible for the administration of diocesan properties and trusts. The DBF is accountable to the Diocesan Conference, via its Standing Committee and the Charities Commission.

Membership of the DBF is made up of ex-officio members, elected members (one cleric and two lay from each archdeaconry) and up to four co-opted lay members all of whom must be on the electoral roll of their parish. Members are elected onto the DBF by the Diocesan Conference's Standing Committee.

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## Grants Committee

### Grants Committee

The Grants committee allocates financial resources to grant applications from across the diocese to support the mission of the church. The group is accountable to the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Conference via its Standing Committee.

Standing Committee receives nominations and is responsible for appointing members of the committee based on suitable skills and grants experience.



## Diocesan Property Board (DPB)

The Diocesan Property Board was created in 2017 when the Parsonage Board and the Churches and Pastoral Committee were merged. This new Board organises the maintenance, repair and improvement of parsonages, church buildings and churchyards in such a way as to free up Mission Areas to focus on mission activity. It also keeps under review the pastoral need for these assets in the diocese and advises the Bishop, the Representative Body, the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Conference accordingly. The membership of the Board has an equal number of clergy and laity and is made up of ex-officio members, three elected members appointed by the Diocesan Conference and three members appointed by the Bishop.

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## Diocesan Office

Staff at the Diocesan Office are employed to undertake the work and purpose of the Diocese of St Asaph. They are employed by the DBF and are accountable to the Diocesan Conference via its Standing Committee.

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## To find out more

<http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/>

You can read the constitution of the Church in Wales at:

<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/representative-body/publications/downloads/the-constitution/>