



Standing Committee Bulletin 10: 27 March 2019 Llandrinio Village Hall

Hilary Murray welcomed everyone to SC and invited **John Lomas** to give the opening reflection.



Matters Arising

The dates of the 2019 meetings will be included in the minutes and are available at:
<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/standing-committee/>

The metanoia output was circulated after the last meeting and is available on the website.

Information/guidance on completing the returns has been circulated and copies are available from the Diocesan Office.

2020: Strategic Plan (with meeting notes)

Bishop Gregory: The Strategic Plan is based on the 8 priorities identified by Standing Committee and these have been distilled to create 5 strategic aims:

- Growth
- Service
- Youth
- Enablement
- Mission Areas



Aims 1 and 5 have so far had the most attention. **Growth** has focused on MA targets and plans for Hope Street. In **MAs** much is happening with a cultural change.

Service: Lay ministries have developed with readers, evangelists, pastoral chaplains, youth chaplains and there's been a huge rise in vocations, especially amongst younger people.

AD Barry, Diane McCarthy, Pam Powell, Tracey White and the Developing Steering group are overseeing this aim.

Youth: Good work is already being done with church schools, youth forums, youth church, youth pilgrimage and the confirmation partnership with Helsinki.

Rosalind Williams, the Education team and the Nurturing Steering group are overseeing this aim.

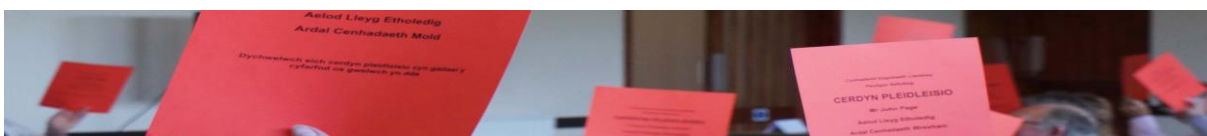
Enablement: There's further good work with Dementia Friendly Church, holiday hunger, cold weather shelter, modern slavery and eco-diocese.

Diane McCarthy, John Lomas, Sarah Wheat and Engaging Steering Group will oversee this aim.

Mission Areas: Much has been done on the organisation and finance of MAs with MAC, SMT and growth targets.

An implementation plan will be delivered by AD Andy, Diane and Pam.

The Strategic Plan is about encouraging and pushing ourselves forward. It's the responsibility of all SC members; it's SCs responsibility to ensure it's carried out. So take this plan back to MA conferences and ensure this strategic plan is discussed and implemented at MA level – it's for every level of the church.



Eight signs of a closing church:

- Numerical decline for longer than four years
- The church does not look like its community
- The congregation is mostly senior adults
- The focus is on the past, not on the future
- Members are intensively driven by their own preferences
- The budget is severely inward focused
- There are sacred cow facilities such as pews
- Any type of change is met with fierce resistance.

Kevin Horswell: It's good to hear of the rise in vocations – will we keep the ordinands or export them?

+G: St Asaph operates with 75 established posts and 8 training posts. We're likely to need to reduce the established number and that will happen through natural changes. I don't want to "export" ordinands at the moment, but the question is pertinent, and we will have to reflect on it.



Maintaining a Focus on Growth

Andy Grimwood reported on the MAs growth target of 10%: In 2018, there was a fall in average attendance of 2.3%. In Montgomery it fell by 0.85%; in St Asaph it fell by 3.58% and in Wrexham it fell by 1.4%. In general, rural areas have fared better than urban. Are seaside towns struggling? That would seem to be the case but Craig y Don and Towyn are growing.

In 2019, all MA have been asked to set their own targets. This time they range from 2-10% giving the diocese an average of 6% growth for 2019.

People across MAs are taking growth seriously. People are using the language of growth and people are desiring growth.

Barry Wilson: I was disappointed by this. I was at least hoping for a break-even situation, but it takes a long time to turn things around.

The figures begin to show us the situation and give up the opportunity to support and offer targeted interventions.

Growth culture is significant – you need to have expectations of growth and have practices of growth as part of the DNA. It takes a change of culture and we are only just beginning this process.

We've drawn a line in the sand by setting the 10% target. You've made a statement – we're going to stop where we've been and try for something new. It's the start of journey.

Steve Willson: I was very sceptical at the beginning but in the MA there has been a change of attitude towards growth and that has been very encouraging. That has made a difference. We have achieved some growth but need to find a way to make the figures more reliable

SC was interrupted:



Working Lunch

Review of Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG)

Tracey White updated SC on LyCiG. The diocese has held three residentials for 60



people with a follow up day in the Autumn of each of the three years.

This has given 398 impacts in total – approx. 10% of our worshipping congregation. We are hoping to get up to 450 and we still have one more follow up day. A LyCiG local pack is available for each MA. This year, we invited Monmouth Diocese to join us and they sent 7 people. LyCiG is running in some MAs and in some its starting to gain traction. At the end of LyCiG delegates are asked to pledge. The top three pledges are:

- to change to user friendly services
- prayer for growth
- start inviting people

There's been some great feedback. One church has changed their signs from "no parking" to "welcome"; another church has given away money to mark their anniversary. A critical mass is needed from each church for a difference to be made.

Colin Mansley: Can you tell us more about the local course?

TW: There's a DVD to accompany the Bible Study and it's suggested that it runs every other week. If your cleric hasn't been to LyCiG we can ask a LyCiG companion to assist.

Hilary Murray: It can quite a challenging course for some. It's very good but will cause change.

LyCiG prayer was said together.

Hope Street, Wrexham – our bid to the Evangelism Fund (EF)

1 Hope Street – the old Burton's store – has now been purchased. It will be transformed into a worship space, meeting rooms and hospitality facilities. Resource Church belongs to the whole diocese and will resource the diocese

The EF Bid Committee has given us a green light to progress to Stage 2 and our

second stage bid has been submitted. The next step is the presentation of our Stage 2 bid on 11 April – please pray for the team.

An update from the Engaging Steering Group



Jonathan Abbott explained how we are now registered as an Eco Diocese, which means individual churches can register at www.ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk.

We have a Christian duty to engage with this – it is the poorest in all communities who will suffer.

Please get in touch with Jonathan and nominate a MA link. You can contact Jonathan at Jonathan.abbat@gmail.com

Wrexham Church and Community Cold Weather Shelter

Sarah Wheat: The 10-week night shelter project finished on 17 March.

Approx. 200 volunteers trained to help with the project and the shelter opened in a different venue each night – seven churches were involved. Each night a homecooked meal was eaten by guests and volunteers together. Three CinW churches were part of the project.

Three of the guests have now been given space in the new Modular Homes in Wrexham; other guests have got accommodation too. It's made such a difference. They're still looking for the right accommodation for one guest.

Sarah thanked everyone for supporting the project in whatever way.

In Gwersyllt, Pebbles is raising money to provide socks for the project for next year. The group of 7-11-year olds have made keyrings.

HJC will be receiving the diocesan offering this year and all donations will be gratefully received.



Matters Raised

James Turner: What plans are there for 2020 celebrations

+G responded: We will be fully supporting the national service for thanksgiving for Wales taking place in all 6 cathedrals on Sunday 7 June. The order of service will be bilingual and can be used by every church in the diocese the following Sunday.

Karen Maurice outlined the Provincial communications campaign around 2020. This will focus on social media and will begin in Advent (December 2019). It will focus on celebrating the CinW as a national institution of Wales. It will be inclusive in nature and encourage people to engage with the Christian faith. Among the items/films planned:

- A century of the church – celebrating the presence of the church in every community.
- A vote on the most beautiful church
- A series of films documenting the “people of the church / pobl yr eglwys”

Provincial Reports

+G outlined activity at the Bench of Bishops. This included discussions on

- The Children's Society
- CinW 2020 centenary
- A meeting with the clergy remuneration committee
- Liturgical work on Church seasons
- A draft report on the election of Bishops and Archbishops.
- The Personal Confession and how keeping that a secret potentially conflicts with Safeguarding.

There'll be a statement at GB in May on same sex relationships

Report from the RB – Nigel Williams

The most recent meeting was 7 March and for the first time we had to report breaches of data protection.

Sir Paul Silk was elected as Deputy Chair of the RB.

Investments: at the end of 2018, £49m was wiped off the investments only to be recovered in the first quarter on 2019.

Update on the EF - the challenge for the RB is that £8m is already being sought by three dioceses. The RB will make every effort to make the bids a reality.

Dame Clare Clancy, Chair of the Remuneration Committee, is producing a piece of work offering radical but realistic proposals for the future. The committee is preparing a presentation for GB.

AOB

Bishop Gregory outlined plans for his sabbatical between July – August. During his absence, the Dean will be the senior cleric, with the Archdeacons carrying out day to day responsibility and the Chancellor has full episcopal powers in an emergency.

2019 Annual Report

Diane McCarthy: Work is starting on the 2019 Annual Report. If you have any suggestions of what should be included and how that information should be presented, please let us know.

Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 25 June, St Andrew's Church and Community Hub, Garden City.

Further information.

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

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

