

## Standing Committee Bulletin 12: 24 September 2019

### St Peter's Church, Holywell

**Norma Rowles** welcomed everyone to SC and invited **Nia Morris** to give the opening reflection.



#### Diocesan Budget for 2020 and 5-year plan



**Chair of the DBF, Helen Jones:** (See the accompanying notes). Our largest source of income is the Mission Area Share which makes up 69%

of expenditure. For 2020, overall Share will be held at the 2019 level. The MA Share discount scheme is continuing with 19/21 MAs on track to receive a full discount in 2019.

The DBF has been working closely with its investment bankers. It has negotiated an arrangement with the RB to use net rental income on parsonages as part of general funds. Therefore, total budgeted income is £4.756m.

Expenditure will be £4.741m. This includes a 2.1% increase in stipends and salaries. In line with Standing Committee's priorities we now have four stipendiary lay posts.

The DBF will also be investing in a rural strategy and is also budgeting for a potential increase in clergy pension contributions.

This is a balanced budget with a slight surplus and is in line with our 5-year plan to return the diocese to financial health.

**Rebecca Sparey-Taylor:** Thanked the DBF for not raising MA share, but as Wrexham churches are growing, every churchgoer in Wrexham is having to increase their giving by 10%. That's a substantial increase and for growing churches, seems unfair.

**Diane McCarthy:** Overall the Share level isn't rising but it doesn't mean all churches pay the same – it does vary, but this year we have managed a much smaller range of increases/decreases across the Diocese. Wrexham's contribution per attender is still below the diocesan average. This year's increase is partly righting the historical under-reporting of Wrexham's attendance figures.

**Kevin Horswell:** Why has the amount spent on safeguarding gone down?

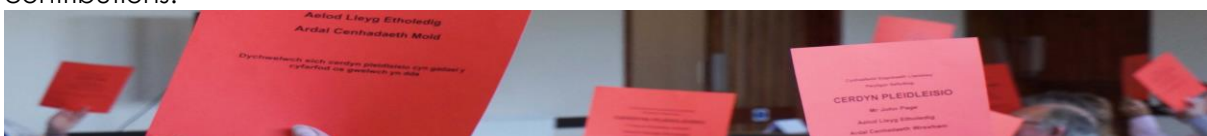
**Diane:** This is now mainly funded provincially, so has reduced in our diocesan budget.

The budget was passed unanimously.

#### 2020: Hope Street

**John Lomas:** Andy and Rachel Kitchen were deaconed yesterday at Holy Trinity Brompton Road (HTB). John and Jonathan Smith attended. Both Andy and Rachel have lots of experience of leading big churches in a lay capacity.

Work is beginning on the structure of Hope Street. Asbestos is all clear. The roof and the cellar are being worked on. Plans are being drawn up with the architect on how to make best use of the building.



We are also looking to create a team. The team will be fully part of the diocese and not just brought in. We need to plant out from Hope Street and so the leaders need to be culturally appropriate.



We are looking to partner with different organisations including Care for the Family and have a presence with St Padarns, to offer internships.

We are progressing at speed as we're due to open for Freshers Week (Sept) in 2020.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep can tell us three things:

1. Lost sheep only get lost when they think they find something better to do, however mistakenly.
2. Sheep do come back by others drawing them back.
3. It's the lost sheep which choose the ground we walk on – we can't decide where the lost sheep should be found. And that's the mistake we've made in the past. We need to move into the area where the lost sheep are.

## 2020: Rural strategy

**Barry Wilson** (see the accompanying papers) explained the map of rurality in *Teulu Asaph*.

Rural churches are small, some are fragile but sometimes those who attend make up 10% of the local population.

There is a deep-seated commitment but there is a vulnerability especially due to the age profile and size of the congregations.

The rural strategy is not just a paper exercise: it will identify new possibilities to attract people.

We have started already with prayer. There is a prayer booklet and we're waiting for a new batch to be delivered as current supplies have all gone already!

The first Rule of St Benedict is to listen and we will be doing that in many different ways: Gatherings, MA conferences, church committees and questionnaires.

We are also looking at research – the demographic profile of each area, worshipping trends, identifying good practice in mission, ministry, support and training.

We need to be honest and look at our strengths and weaknesses. But we don't need to reinvent the wheel - we can look at what's happening elsewhere. e.g.:

- Lightwave projects:  
<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/fresh-expressions/suffolk-fresh-expressions-community-lightwave>
- Intergenerational Missioners  
<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/intergenerational-mission/>



The Working Group has held its first meeting and there's a meeting for all Rural clergy and Leaders on 19 October in Christ Church Bala. Wider consultation will take place from November onwards.

**Martin Snellgove:** Is there an ecumenism dimension?

**Barry** is already speaking to counterparts in the Methodist Church and they may come on board at some point but it's important we get the process started.



## 2020: Coastal Strategy

**Andy Grimwood:** There are three strands to this, but nothing is pre-determined:

1. Prayer. The first meeting is on 15 October at Canolfan Dewi Sant, Pensarn. Everyone is welcome.
2. On 10 October, we're having a listen and dream meeting and we'd like to encourage you to do the same in your churches. I'll be working with Hugh Burgess and Rachel Goddard Jones to facilitate such meetings.
3. We are already looking for grants to resource coastal communities.

## Proposal to merge Tanat Valley and Vyrnwy Mission Areas

**Barry Wilson:** Tanat Valley MA is financially fragile but is also struggling with the legal structure to make a Mission Area and its congregations are very small. Vyrnwy is less financially fragile but also struggles with representatives to fill the legally required roles. Conversations are starting to see if these two MAs could merge.



**Jeffrey Olstead:** Tanat Valley has been vulnerable from the start. People feel very dispirited locally, but we think joining with Vyrnwy will now

benefit both Mission Areas. Jeffrey read out a statement from the Tanat Valley MAC.

**Roz Crawford:** Our MAL, Hermione Morris, has been on sabbatical. Vyrnwy hasn't had extensive discussions on the matter so it's too soon for us to be making such a decision.

**Nigel Williams:** At the time of creating MAs, the DBF had concerns about the financial viability of creating two small MAs but they respected local preferences.

**Pam Powell:** As Transition Missioner at the time, people wanted to be where they were and that was recognised by the diocese. The rural strategy this will have a positive impact on those communities.

**David Lewis:** This is new for all of us. When things don't go well, we need to treat people with respect. We're all in this together.

**Jeffrey Olstead:** We need to recognise our mistakes and make sure we don't make them again.

**Nia Morris:** We all need to be much more honest and make sure things are transparent. We need to go back to our churches and tell them what's happening.

## Diocesan Conference

**Diane McCarthy:** This will be a different conference as Bishop Gregory is on sabbatical and will be attending as a delegate. We will open with worship and prayer and we have much to celebrate, hence our theme, One Shared Hope.

Simon Ponsonby is the keynote speaker. The worship will be led by young people and this year we will have time for small group work.

This is our last year at St Joseph's School who have been amazing hosts. Next year, we will be in Glyndŵr University.

Details at:

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/diocesan-conference/>

## Matters raised by Mission Areas

There are three questions:

### 1. Changes to the way marriages are registered. Pam

**Powell:** Training will take place on 14 November and we have 50 places allocated to MALs





and Bishops Staff. Details of how this training will be cascaded through the diocese will follow.

## 2. Clergy as trustees on MACs.

**Llyr Williams:** All clergy are trustees as long as the number of lay people outnumber the number of clergy. Clergy in training should also be trustees. That could make the number quite large, however you can create subcommittees for day to day work. Subcommittee members don't have to be trustees. The MA decrees allow for a certain amount of local autonomy. This may help deal with the issue of non-attenders – MACs can create their own rules, which don't conflict with the CinW constitution.

**Maryon Hughes:** What about deputy reps, do they have a vote on matters?

**Llyr:** They can have a proxy vote on everything as long as the MAC agrees to this. It would be worth having a proxy form available.

**Huw Burgess:** We have created a monster. We have 32 trustees on EMMA. Oxfam has only 10 trustees. We don't have to be a charity under the constitution. Can we have a smaller group of trustees and the operational matters handled separately?

**Llyr:** The CinW is a charity, as were parishes, so there's nothing new in MAs being charities. Using sub committees to deal with operational matters could be a way forward.

**Jeffrey Olstead:** It's also virtually impossible to open a bank account, with all the trustees having to give details.

**Ann Hooper:** It took EMMA 18 months to open a bank account. It does need to be reviewed. We need a smaller trustee body.

**Clive Myers:** It's only 5 signatories who need to give personal details, not all the MAC members!

## 3. Valle Crucis - when a church is redundant, it transfers to the RB but not the churchyard, which transfers to be MA responsibility.

**Norma Rowles** read out a response from Alex Glanville. There is no obvious funding stream to support churchyards from the CinW. Diane will contact Alex to discuss this further.

**Rosalind Williams** said Grace before lunch.

After lunch, **Martin Batchelor** took the chair and Rosalind Williams acted as Secretary to the meeting.

## Update from the Engaging Steering Group

**Sarah Wheat** introduced three people showcasing different engaging projects:



**Kathy Stewart** explained the **Wellfield Charity Trust set up by the Mold MA** to help those who are homeless.

Mold MA raised £5,000 to launch the project. Volunteers from across the churches helped with decorating and refurbishment work. Wellfield Farm opened for four guests in March 2019 and is now fully occupied.

More details are available at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-in-action/stepping-out-in-our-communities/>

*What we've learnt?*

- Things can be very difficult!
- Churches can work together and support each other



*For the future* - We want to extend our work, but don't have the finances at the moment.

**Huw Burgess:** Was there much opposition?

**Kathy:** There was hostility at the beginning. People were concerned their local environment would change with the arrival of drug addicts and alcoholics. That has diminished now.

**Yvonne Pryce started a Bereavement Cafe Project, in Offa Mission Area.** The café is open once a month and is advertised in the parish news sheet, local press and the doctor's surgery. People find others to speak to and realise they're not alone. They are encouraged to do other social activities too. And some begin to come to church.

We only have a few people but by keeping it small, it retains its intimacy. We don't offer counselling but do pass people onto Cruise bereavement or their GP.

**Maryon Hughes:** How long do people stay?

**Yvonne:** Some people come for about 5 meetings, but they might come back when they have other problems - we're like a listening café.

**Cass Meurig:** What sort of structure is there to the meeting?

**Yvonne:** We have a prayer before people arrive. There are tables and chairs and we have cakes. Sometimes people want company for a trip to the cinema and we make plans together.

**Juliet Fraser - a church presence in Mochdre.**

The old Anglican Church closed 15 years ago. It's a mixed community, with a lot of social problems. I had an ordinand with me with lots of pioneer ministry experience and we're looking at how we can be church without a building.

The first thing we did was pray. Then we mapped the area - and we prayed again! We spoke to lots of people. It's taking time, but we are building up relationships. It's slow but hugely affirming.

We now run *Digin*, which is set up for people who aren't comfortable in traditional church.

We're now asking the question, what can we do for Mochdre? I don't know what shape church will be in Mochdre but the Lord has his hand on what we're doing.

### Provincial reports to Standing Committee

Andy Grimwood gave three highlights from Governing Body:

- Our report on Hope Street went down well – people are really impressed with the plans.
- Dr Sandra Miller reported to GB on Life Matters.
- GB passed a motion to campaign against Modern Slavery.

*Highlights* will be available shortly with a full update.

Nigel closed this session with prayers and thanks to everyone who has participated over the last triennial.



### Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 27 November, St Andrew's Church Hall, Buckley.

### Further information.

All the papers to accompany this meeting can be found at:  
<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/standing-committee/>

