

Standing Committee Bulletin 15: 22 September 2020

Via Zoom



Llyr Williams welcomed everyone to SC via Zoom and John Lomas opened with a reflection: *"let us be fit for purpose whatever the future might hold."*

Mission Area Reviews

Barry Wilson outlined the MA Review process explaining that:

1. After a big change, it is good practice to review how things are going.
2. The Rural Consultations, before they were paused, highlighted the need for realism rooted in reality.
3. Reviews were already taking place for MAs requiring additional support.
4. It is good to focus across the diocese to identify where and how new life for the future is emerging.

The outcomes for each MA will be different – there is no "one size fits all".

Relevant information is available at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/missionarearesources/>

Update from the Developing Steering Group

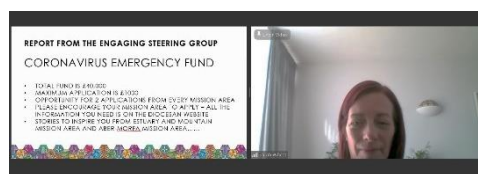
Andy Grimwood encouraged people to pray for all those offering themselves for

ministry. The latest ember card is available at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/find-your-calling/>

SC approved the new membership of the Developing Steering Group:
<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/05b-Developing-SG-Membership-2020.pdf>

Update from the Engaging Steering Group

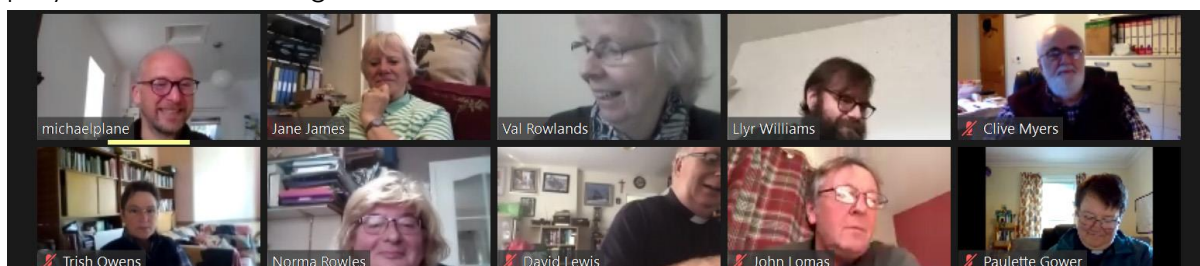
Sarah Wheat promoted the forthcoming (8 October) webinar *Lighten our Darkness* focusing on Modern Slavery. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lighten-our-darkness-modern-slavery-your-response-as-a-community-of-faith-registration-117783929905>



She introduced two films showing the impact of the Coronavirus Emergency Support Fund and the inspiring work being done in two MAs: Estuary and Mountain and Aber-Morfa. Watch and share them at:

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/coronavirus/supporting-your-community/>

Sarah explained how churches can support those who are lonely in their community through the befriending programme: Two's Company...find out more on page 6 of *Teulu Asaph*:
<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/teulu-asaph-september-november-2020/>



Applications are still open for the Coronavirus Emergency Support Fund.

Update from the Nurturing Steering Group



Tim Feak updated SC on the work of the Nurturing Steering Group. The team has been working very hard to support schools and teachers throughout the pandemic. Resources for collective worship and mental health and wellbeing are being made available online. A first aid mental health training course is being planned for later in the Autumn. Tim has worked with Bangor Diocese to create guidance for churches working with children and young people at this time. Read it at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/coronavirus/resources-for-young-people/>

Chaplaincy work in some schools and colleges is beginning to resume.

Focus on the National Church

Nigel Williams gave a comprehensive summary of the current work of the Representative Body (RB). A new working group comprising the Bench of Bishops, the Diocesan Secretaries, the RB Trustees and key members of the Provincial Office are meeting regularly to discuss key issues for the future.

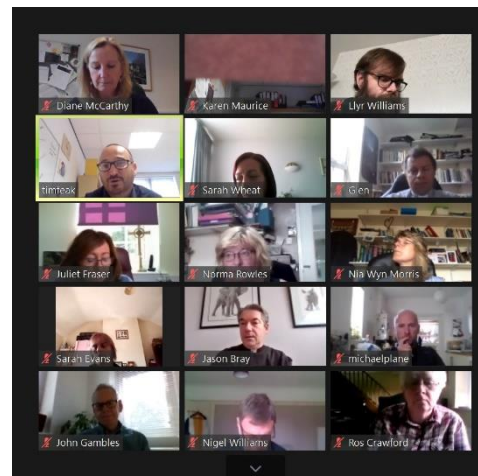
The current chair of the RB, James Turner, will continue in post for another 12 months due to the exceptional circumstances created by Covid.

The RB has been very generous to the dioceses in its response to the pandemic and this has increased its operating deficit from £2.8m to £10.4m. There will be no further financial contributions to dioceses

in 2020 and the RB will meet again as soon as there is meaningful data available from dioceses in 2021 to review whether any additional financial support for diocese is required. A series of recommendations have been made by the Investment Committee.

A new Chair of the *Provincial Safeguarding Panel* has been appointed. Tony Young is a former director of Social Services for Cardiff City Council and has no previous connection with the CinW. He will be remunerated for his time.

Clergy Remuneration Review: An interim report has been represented to the RB Trustees. Additional work is needed to provide clergy with comparison examples and to look at the collection of fees for Occasional Offices.



Diocesan Budget

Helen Jones presented the budget for 2021. See the accompany papers for details:

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/07-2021-Budget-Notes-for-Diocesan-Standing-Committee.pdf>

There were no questions and the 2021 budget was passed unanimously by SC.

Diocesan Conference

Diane McCarthy outlined plans for the forthcoming Conference entitled 2020: The Unexpected Journey. Details at



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

Hope Street Wrexham launch plans

The new leaders of Hope Street, Andy and Rachel Kitchen joined Standing Committee to outline their plans for the launch of Hope Street.



Work to complete the building has been delayed, due to Covid and the civic launch will take place in January with the first Sunday service on 31 January 2021. Throughout October and timed to coincide with the start of the university term, the team will be running online Alpha. The autumn will see:

- The building of the team
- The building of prayer – the team meet every morning at 1102 to pray for 3 friends to invite to Alpha
- The building of service to Wrexham in partnership with existing churches/organisations
- The building of mission – Alpha offers a safe space to explore the big questions of life.

Sign up to online Alpha and find out more about Hope Street at

<https://www.hopestreet.church/>

Matters Raised by Mission Areas

Maelor MA requested an update on MA Vestry meeting obligations:

Tracey White responded saying the RB issued new guidelines last week which are available at

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Vestry-Meetings-and-MAC-Meetings-Advice-September-2020.pdf>

She is going to ask if those MAs who did complete their new Electoral Roll will need to renew it again 2022.

Maelor MA asked what ideas, resources, best practice is available to mark big occasions such as Remembrance and Christmas when it looks likely that usual celebrations won't be possible due to Covid restrictions?

Bishop Gregory encouraged people to invest at MA level to build capacity and respond to local need. This will be a major topic for discussion at the Clergy Synods taking place this week.

Sue Huyton outlined Maelor MA's plans for "Christingle in a Bag".

Closing Blessing from Bishop Gregory



Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 24 November, which is likely to be via Zoom once again.

Further information.

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

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

