

## Standing Committee Bulletin 20: 25 November 2021 Via Zoom

**Jason Bray** chaired the Standing Committee (SC) meeting and invited Bishop John Lomas to open with a reflection.



hexagons which reflect faith, hope, love. A new logo has also been created and access to the new brand assets will be available later in December via a drop-box on the diocesan website:

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

### Future pattern of SC meetings

Feedback from the last meeting on future patterns of SC included:

- A warning to be careful about Saturdays in May due to bank holidays and school holidays.
- Do we need an all-day meeting? Is there a danger we'll fill the time rather than needing the time?

### Planning our Future: Grow Faith, Bring Hope, Demonstrate Love

**Bishop Gregory** introduced Standing Committee to the new diocesan focus: faith, hope, love. It's not a new initiative but a focus for what we are already doing and reflects the core purpose of church. It is intended to energise. It is being launched with the Advent Message on Sunday 28 November and there's further information in the new edition of *Teulu Asaph*:

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/bishopgregory/advent-message/>

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/teulu-asaph-december-2021-february-2022/>

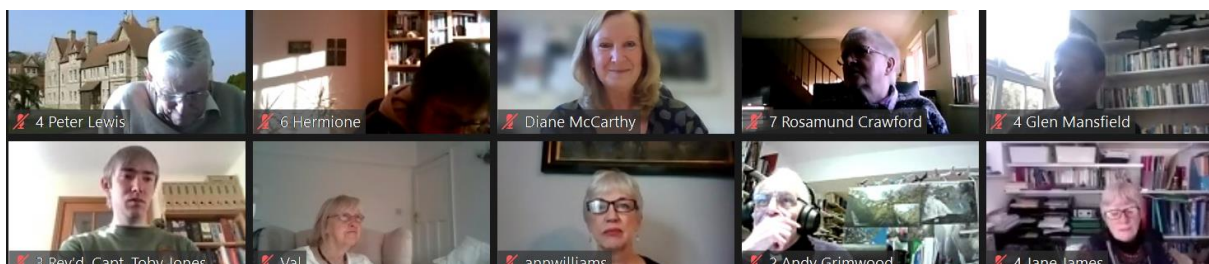
**Karen Maurice:** The diocesan brand is being refreshed to create three new



ESGOBAETH LLANELWY  
TYFU FFYDD • DOD Â Gobaith • Dangos Cariad  
GROW FAITH • BRING HOPE • DEMONSTRATE LOVE  
DIOCESE OF ST ASAPH

Work has started on a manifesto outlining the diocesan vision of faith, hope, love which will form the reconstruction work of the diocese, post pandemic. *What then shall we say? A Manifesto for our Future* will be available in churches in February. The booklet will be available in printed form as well as online.

**Archdeacon Andy** outlined how Mission Area Reviews are crucial in taking forward the vision of faith, hope, love. MAs aren't being asked to do anything new, but the plans are important to ensure the structure of our MAs and diocese is right. It's not about doing more but sharpening our focus (and in some cases this may mean doing less!). We want everyone enabled to do what God has called them to do. The message of the Book of Numbers in the Old Testament is that God has called us to work together.



### Archdeacon Barry

explained the draft Discipleship Course (see paper circulated) which will be rolled out to MAC in May. The course (5 sessions in total) will encourage members to share their stories and experiences as Christians. The hope is by the end of week 5, people will:



1. Be comfortable with each other
2. Want to carry on studying together

**Will Marshall** said he had looked at the draft course outline and was concerned that it didn't appear to involve much engagement with scripture.

**A/D Barry** replied saying he chose not to go down that route due to the nature of our diocese. This is a taster course – no more than that and we don't want to alienate people... "I want them to discover the joy of study."

**Norman Morris** asked if the course is for those who already go to church to reinforce their faith and encourage them in these bleak times or is it to reach beyond the church? The audience will determine the format.

**Jenny Creed:** In the circles she moves in, people love to talk about their own experiences so this type of course will work well.

Discussions in breakout rooms focused on:

- What do you want to affirm?
- What do you want to change?

The feedback included:

**Tracey White:** The group wanted to affirm the focus for faith, hope, love. The phased introduction of the new branding was good. For the course, there was a strong feeling that there should be more scripture but it should be easy to engage with. It needs to have substance. The group asked if the course would have a wider use beyond the MAC?

**Bishop Gregory** explained why the focus was on the MAC to begin with: they are the people setting the vision for the Mission Area but it would be really useful if it could be used more widely.

**Sarah Wheat:** The group liked that this was a focus, not a complete change of direction. Faith, hope, love is something everyone can connect with. Could the course be both in-person and online? People asked for more time to offer feedback on the course and consider how it fits with their MA plans.

**A/D Barry:** The group affirmed the new focus; a refreshing of what we do already. There was a general feeling that the course was focused in the right direction and people would be able to engage.

The group didn't want anything too structured or prescriptive. We need to be clear on the focus – is it for the MAC or across the diocese? Could the requirement to follow the course be counterproductive and discourage people from joining the MAC?!

**Norma Rowles:** The group liked the strapline: it's positive. Would courses on zoom be easier? Some still have reservations about meeting together due to the continuing pandemic. Can we use vocabulary which promotes change without talking about change!



**Bishop John Lomas:** The group asked for some clarification on the adaptability of the course? Can it be adapted between Mission Areas?

**Hannah Daniels:** The group thought the focus is great. As members of SC we need



to be pushing this in our Mission Area. The course looks inviting and hopefully lets people be comfortable in how they contribute to the group. How does the course fit with other groups? Is it a discipleship course or a sharing experience?

**Michael Plane:** The group wondered if MAC members could do the course first and then facilitate other groups across the Mission Area? It would be good if each MA could give the course a local feel. It can demonstrate love in our communities – how can we serve our communities? What barriers are there to people coming to church? It can build confidence to look outwards.

### The Engaging Steering Group

**Sarah Wheat** introduced the work on the Engaging Steering Group and explained how their focus has changed in recent years. The group is keen to be a good resource for the diocese.

They have introduced a This Works! Section on the website:  
<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-in-action/> accessed from the Faith in Action page.



It is dedicated to sharing stories providing resources and templates eg food hygiene courses, handling money policies etc. Each project is located under one of the 4Ps from LyCiG: Prayer, Presence, Proclamation, Persuasion – and includes a 100 word description, a photograph and contact details.

Sarah asked for other examples which can be added to the website. "Let's showcase

what we're doing... ..we want to know what works!"

This Works! will be launched in March 2022 with an online seminar, workshop, and Q&A event.

### Dementia Support Officer

**Ann Williams** has been appointed as Diocesan Dementia Support Officer. Since starting in August, there's been a real willingness and enthusiasm to learn more and make changes to be more inclusive. Ann is developing a plan to encourage people to become Dementia Friends to support their community. For details, have a look at her recent article in *Teulu Asaph* and visit the revamped section of the website:

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-in-action/dementia-friendly-diocese/>

**Bishop John:** This Works! is the opportunity to use and share engagement across the diocese. Send us all the ideas you have so we can use them across the diocese.

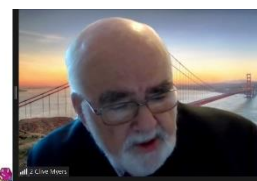
**Hugh Burgess:** Love it and want to affirm it. As we're now thinking in terms of faith, hope, love, are the 4Ps confusing matters and should ideas be grouped in faith, hope and love instead?

**Tracey White:** The 4Ps are about helping you put stepping stones in place. They underpin faith hope and love, they're not in competition.

### Grants Committee

**Clive Myers:** Since the pandemic, all the meetings take place by Zoom and urgent funding requests are considered by email.

GRANT SCHEME	£ 2021	£ 2020	£ INC / DEC
BUILDINGS	43,846	27,710	+16,136
YOUTH WORK	6,500	3,080	+3,420
SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT	2,000	6,407	-4,407
TRAINING RESOURCES	4,409	2,444	+1,965
MA ADMINISTRATORS	50,500	70,900	-20,400
CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY FUND	24,883	18,144	+6,739
CHURCH EMERGENCY FUND	101,000	NIL	+101,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227,287</b>	<b>155,967</b>	<b>+71,320</b>



A total of £227,287 of grant funding has been awarded in 2021.





In 2022, we are going to refresh the grants page on the website and there will be a communication shared with every MA. This will include stories of how grants have made a difference. The Grants Committee needs your help to:

1. Nominate a lay person to join the committee – at least one for each archdeaconry. Nominations can be passed through your Archdeacon to Diane McCarthy.
2. Share the information about grant schemes as widely as possible
3. Tell us about one grant that has made a real difference to people in your MA.

**Norman Morris** encouraged people to join. It's an excellent committee and it is really interesting to see what's happening across the diocese – you can pick up some really good ideas!

### Financial Outlook

**Diane McCarthy** gave feedback on the MA Finance meetings held recently:

There is sincere appreciation for Emergency Funding in 2020/21 – thank you to the RB and for the DBF which decided that all the funding should go to the churches and MAS to be used at local level.

There are stronger bonds between churches and MAs – churches have had to work together and have built relationships.

There are genuine concerns about attendance data which is used in the share calculation. We normally use a rolling 3-year figure but because data isn't available for 2020, we're having to use 2018/19 and that feels like a long time ago. For a small number of churches, attendance has increased since the pandemic which is encouraging – we need to learn lessons from these churches.

Overall, many people are weary but are determined that their church will thrive into

the future, acknowledging that things will have to be different.

The DBF has said that any surplus from the 2020 and 2021 accounts will be reinvested in MAs. This includes the MA hub churches – one in each archdeaconry, new ideas being brought to reality in the cathedral and dotEglwysdotChurch (online church) which will all see intentional investment.

The Share Review Working Group will re-double its efforts in 2022 to find a formula which encourages and rewards growth...Sunday adult attendance is no longer a good way to assess the life of our churches.



**Ros Crawford:** Why don't we include attendance for people during the week?

**Diane:** It's a good point – we need to look at that. In our diocese, midweek worship is a real strength. We need to think about this going forward to work out a fair allocation of share.

**Jane Ayee:** Is there any more detailed information about grants?

**Clive:** Further information can be circulated with the meeting notes and the website will be updated with information.

### Life Events – Pam Powell

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are often dismissed as marginal events to church life but these are huge events in people's life. If you reflect on these events



– they occur on a specified day but the planning and effect on those involved lasts for much longer. Life events are huge opportunities for evangelism.

Research shows that the welcome and the opportunity to forge relationships is important.

Numbers at life event service are not always recorded but the numbers are very significant. 56K+ seeking a baptism, funeral, or wedding and 863,000 attending those events (based on 2019).

Bilingual printed literature, videos and online support with resources are all available. A full pack was given to each Mission Area in recent training.

Resources can be ordered from **Churchprinthub.org/wales** There is a workbook for MACs – it is free of charge.

Further information at **Stpadarns.ac.uk/lifeevents**

**Jane Ayee:** Can the funeral literature be used in crematoria?

**Pam:** Yes. It would be worth giving the cards to your local undertakers.

**Hermione Morris** said she found the training very informative and affirming. As a MA we've identified one thing from each of the life events we want to take forward in the next 12 months.

### Casual vacancy on the GB

Mr Rob Dawson, lay chair of Borderlands Mission Area, was elected to the Governing Body for the period 2022 - 2024.

### Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 30 March 2022 – venue (online or in-person) to be confirmed.

**Bishop Gregory** congratulated **Bishop John** on his appointment to the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon. We will all miss John very much, but he goes with prayers and every blessing from the Teulu Asaph.

Bishop Gregory closed Standing Committee with a prayer and blessing.



### Further information.

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

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

