

## Standing Committee Bulletin 17: 30 March 2021 Via Zoom

**Norma Rowles** welcomed everyone to the Standing Committee (SC) via Zoom.



The opening reflection was led by Adrian and Hilary Murray from Christ Church in Bala. They have been working in our link diocese in Tanzania and they explained their work in Milo Hospital and the local school.



### Planning for the Future – the challenge of Recovery and Reconstruction

In November we started an important piece of work which will continue through 2021.

**Tracey White** introduced the feedback from the previous meeting (see meeting papers [Issues Arising](#)).

 OUR MISSION is to communicate that: Anything can happen when we travel with Jesus on a life-changing journey		
Three things will last forever – faith, hope and love (1 Corinthians 13.13)		
The KEYNOTES of our lives as disciples		
<b>FAITH</b> is the FOUNDATION of all that we do	For God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation, and no other foundation can be laid. (1 Corinthians 3.11)	Our Mission Goals
		Grow Faith
<b>HOPE</b> is the CATALYST which inspires action	... that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people" (Ephesians 1.18)	Bring Hope
<b>LOVE</b> is the EXPRESSION of our faith	Be sincere in your love for others ... Love each other as brothers and sisters and honour others more than you do yourself. (Romans 12.9,10)	Demonstrate Love

**Bishop Gregory** introduced the idea of a new diocesan strategy.

'Unlocking our Potential' has enabled people to flourish including new vocations, new ministries, new ordinands – 8 people are going through for discernment indicating that this sort of focus works.

In November 2020 Bishop Gregory suggested some new goals for the future:

2020 was about responding to Covid, this year is about how to recover, and in 2022 we have to be serious about reconstructing our future. Bishop Gregory set out a timeline firstly considering general principles and then in June moving towards goals with specific objectives to work through. This will help to refine the priorities for the coming years. In November we will be able to translate these into specific plans and budgets for 2022 onwards.

Bishop Gregory introduced the teal brick containing our positive vision and values which focus on biblical principles – faith, hope and love. On these three words, we want to base our work going forward:

**To grow faith; to bring hope;  
 to demonstrate love.**

This would replace 'Unlocking our Potential' and be our mission statement. It's not about restarting everything – we want to build on what has been achieved – see the work of the Steering Groups come to fruition,



complete the Mission Area reviews and carry on using LyCiG for renewal.

It will energise us for reconstruction in five evolving ways:

- Focusing on MAs
- Using LyCiG Local
- Hope Street Resource Church
- Digital Innovation
- Mission Hub Churches

Later this year, we will launch Mission Hub Churches – the idea is for the Archdeacons to mentor one project in each Archdeaconry which will model the growth of our church.

Finally, we have all learnt to use Zoom and other platforms for online worship but there are exciting plans going forward.

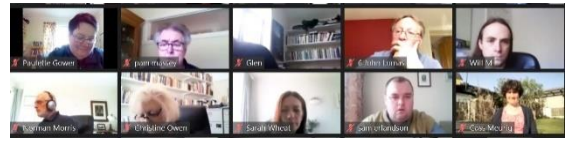
**Diane McCarthy** explained more about Digital Innovation. Our digital response in the face of Covid has been one of the most remarkable achievements. Digital ministry is going to need significant ongoing investment as things move so quickly.

St Asaph and Bangor have been working together and this progress has been shared with the Province. There is now a national Digital Innovation Group and the first meeting has taken place, introducing the idea of a Digital Cathedral.

This would be a digital hub offering the best that online church has to offer. It will include a sense of movement between a digital space and local church. It would include all the online experiences people expect, like a shop, chat, etc.

The Digital Innovation Team will be needed to support the ongoing delivery of excellence – a radical reimagining of our digital experience – and to provide ongoing professional development for clergy and laity.

## SC broke into breakout rooms to consider the direction and to give feedback.



Each group fed back to the meeting. Feedback from the group suggested:

A sense of optimism for the future.

Any Mission Statement should offer a challenge and should focus on taking the church to people, not bringing people to the church.

The basics look good but it's too soon to say for sure that the diocese is moving in the right direction,

We need to do something to keep hold of new congregations being attracted by online worship.

MA hub churches are an exciting prospect. What's the difference between Resource Church (Hope Street), Mission Hub church and Digital Cathedral – how will they fit together?

In terms of timing, we need to bring people with us and fire their enthusiasm!

From the feedback from the November SC meeting, *collaboration, exciting opportunity, accountability and radical change* were significant words.

Everyone agreed we must venture off the page and into action.

MA Reviews are really giving opportunities and accountability and a timetable is built into those reviews.

There was discussion about Faith, Hope and Love – the traditionality of those words was a concern for some people.

Embrace new and old – we need to be relevant. Paper still works well in some contexts.



What we do depends on our setting...not all digital advances have been universally accepted.

The Teal brick was very popular – it seems obvious but contains a lot of thought-provoking content.

The strategy has relevance to the MA Review process but it has to be owned by the MAs and churches.

We must continue to care for our communities – not just our church communities but beyond.

The vision must start quickly and not lag.

Exciting and re-energising the church.

It will go down well in churches as it's biblical – affirming what is already happening.

Coronavirus has led us to see how we should be working – sort out the wheat from the chaff. We are travelling in the right direction – technology does help but should we move from local to digital – what about the New Testament model of church?

It will help us to focus on mission and discipleship.

Timetable – in the right direction but why not sooner?

### **Bishop Gregory summarised the feedback:**

There was rich feedback offered which will take some time to digest. Overall, it was extremely positive and there's clearly a readiness to embrace the direction of travel.

We need to be careful about how this is communicated and ensure it doesn't come across as "initiative overload."

More details about the general principles will be given in the June meeting, which is likely to be via Zoom.

### **Generosity and Stewardship**

**Andy Grimwood** – shared the results of a Church of England survey into understand

attitudes and perceptions on giving. It applies in the Church in Wales too.



The CofE surveyed about 2,000 people who called themselves Anglican between July and Sept 2020. The key findings were:

- 1/3 Anglicans don't give to their church.
- They support other charities who need their giving more.
- Perception that the church has enough money.
- They don't feel part of the church.
- 40% have never been asked to give regularly; nearly half have never been asked to review their giving.
- Of the 26% who have been asked, more than half gave by direct debit or other digital means – suggesting that people are willing to move their giving onto digital platforms.
- Twice as many people have been asked to give by envelopes rather than direct giving.
- Under 40s are motivated to give through preaching and teaching about giving but only half have heard a sermon on giving in the past 12 months. Of those who had heard a sermon, 60% said it didn't change their giving.
- Only 27% view the financial needs of the church as important. Nearly half would give more if they understood the impact of their giving.
- Less than a third of Anglicans say they have ever been thanked for their giving.
- Maintaining the building was one of the key reasons to give.





To encourage us in our stewardship and giving, we are hosting a generosity webinar Wed 28 April at 10am and repeated at 7pm. Further details from [traceywhite@cinw.org.uk](mailto:traceywhite@cinw.org.uk)

### Matters Raised by the Mission Areas

None raised. Norma reminded everyone that issues can be raised for future meetings.

### Report and reflections from the Nurturing Steering Group

**Tim Feak and Heather Loveridge** introduced the work done by the Education Team and the Nurturing Steering Group.

**Tim** introduced the Under 25s work:

- Working closely with Care for the Family
- Upskilled in digital youth work in partnership with Glyndwr University.
- Youth Forum – we now have 16 young people and have a waiting list! The Youth Forum has met digitally and has chosen to work on eco-church, mental health and multifaith dialogue.
- Youth Pilgrimage and a visit to Finland on the discipleship programme were cancelled due to Covid.
- We are working with the Finnish Government on 'Time to Talk' which facilitates healthy dialogue on difficult issues. We are training our young people to be facilitators on this.
- Mental Health First Aid for children and young people. We have now trained a mental health first aider in every church school in the diocese.

**Heather** explained how the Education Team is working with Powys CC on school reviews. Powys has been reviewing its schools under the 21<sup>st</sup> century programme. This will transform schools including some of our rural schools in the Montgomery Archdeaconry. There are proposals for two CinW schools:

Llangedwyn school (23 pupils) and Llanfechan (43 pupils) were proposed for closure in 2022. After a pre-consultation with the diocese that has been amended so that Powys will defer any closure until Sept 2023. More CinW church school places have been

secured at Llansanffraid school. The feasibility study by Powys will provide for a three-classroom solution – 90 places which is an increase in overall CinW places. This represents the best outcome for the diocese that could have been hoped for.



During Covid we have continued to support our schools actively. We have approx. 6,000 children in our Church Schools and they are our future disciples. Our Bishop's Visitors are a good support for schools both pastorally and supporting the curriculum. We do a weekly bulletin to Head Teachers, which includes uplifting messages and information sharing. We have provided lots of curriculum material, films, and video information. We still have the day-to-day work to do (eg governance, buildings) and are working very hard to keep this going.

Tim ended with a film from Jennie Downes about her work as Schools Officer and some detail on the forthcoming and inspirational Translators Project. There was a reflection on the importance of working together.

Bishop Gregory closed Standing Committee with a blessing.

### Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 29 June 2021, which is likely to be via Zoom.

### Further information.

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

