

# Cynhadledd Esgobaeth Llanelwy :: St Asaph Diocesan Conference



## Pwyllgor Sefydlog :: Standing Committee

### Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Conference held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 via Zoom

#### 1. Welcome and Opening Reflection

The meeting was chaired by Vice President of the Diocesan Conference and Standing Committee, Revd Canon Sue Huyton. Sue opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present to the first evening meeting of the Standing Committee, explaining that our evening meetings on Zoom will focus on business and constitutional matters and our in person meeting in May will be our opportunity to develop vision and strategy together. Hannah Daniels, Diocesan Childrens & Youth Officer was then invited to deliver the reflection.

#### 2. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

Apologies from the following members were recorded:

Val Aldcroft, Sam Allin, Huw Bryant, Roger Dutton, Neil Kelly, John Liston, Nia Morris, John Phillips, Trevor Trevor, Suzanne Wardell & Llyr Williams

Sue asked the members of Standing Committee, having seen the agenda, whether anyone wanted to register a conflict of interest. No conflicts were registered.

#### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the Standing Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Hope Street, Wrexham were reviewed and presented for approval by the Standing Committee. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

#### 4. Matters Arising

##### a. Welcome to Jon Morris Diocesan Director of Operations.

Diane McCarthy introduced the newly appointed Diocesan Director of Operations, Jon Morris. Jon follows on from Tracey White who retired last year. Jon will be continuing Tracey's work on governance, funding and stewardship but will increasingly be focusing on support for the mission areas.

Diane also mentioned that on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February we will also be welcoming Justine Baldwin who will be our new Diocesan Director of Education for North Wales. Justine will be covering both Bangor and St Asaph Dioceses having just finished her role as headteacher of CinW Welshpool primary school. Diane paid tribute to the members of

the Diocesan Education team, Jennie Downes, Sheridan Goodey, Ceri Jones and Emily Clark-Jones who have supported our schools over a very lengthy period without a permanent Director of Education, without them we would not be in the healthy position that we are.

- b. Appointment and Installation of the Archdeacon of Wrexham, Hayley Matthews. Bishop Gregory was then invited to update the committee on the new appointment of the Archdeacon of Wrexham. Bishop Gregory was pleased to announce that Hayley Matthews will be joining our diocese on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Hayley joins us from the Diocese of Leeds and has been working there as Director of Lay Formation and Training.

Bishop Gregory invited members of the committee to join Hayley's service of installation on the 5<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm in the Cathedral.

- c. Asaph 1450. Bishop Gregory spoke to the committee about the launch of Asaph 1450, the year of jubilee and reflected on how the committee had come to the decision of what this year's initiative should be. The bishop encouraged everyone to go to the diocesan website <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/asaph-1450/> where there is more information on how the diocese can celebrate. One of the schemes available is the diocese wants to give every Mission Area Leadership a funded opportunity to take a 24 hour residential retreat together. Retreats are important times to be quiet in each other's presence and the presence of God, to grow in our spiritual lives and vision, when we take time out of the busyness of life. There will also be a major service to celebrate Asaph 1450 on the 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Cathedral. An opportunity for questions was then offered.

## **5. Structural Resilience Funding Proposals.**

Sue then invited Diane to talk through the structural resilience funding proposals. Following the last meeting in November we announced some significant sources of funding that was going to be made available to support us in building the life of the Church, to continue to bring more and more people into knowing the love of Jesus in their lives. The three main strands of funding were;

- Partnership Funding, £400k of the £2.7m has been allocated to our diocese.
- Mission & Growth, £100m over 10 years will be available provincially however, we are still waiting to see what will be allocated to our diocese. We hope to have an update on this after the April Governing Body meeting.
- Structural Resilience Funding which is now available. £600k of the £3.7m has been allotted to each diocese. This will be used to strengthen our core operations in recognition of the difficulties we have all had over the last few years.

The Diocesan Board of Finance has been working with the bishops staff team to see how we can use this funding and how we can get this out across the diocese as quick as possible. There are three key areas that this funding is going to be used for

- Mission Area Share Discount Enhancement – £135,670 has been allocated. the normal rebate for mission areas that manage to pay their share in full and on time is 4%. However, for January 2024 those who paid in full and on time will receive an 8% rebate.
- Special Support Scheme – £170,585 has been allocated. This will be used in areas of need across the diocese to help those who face specific challenges.
- Initiatives for Growth – £350,000 had been allocated. This will be used to get a head start

on initiatives for growth as we wait for the news about how the Church Growth Fund will be allocated. There are several initiatives we want to get started on, such as an additional Mission Hub Church, training bursaries and retreats for mission areas and mobile ministry.

In total, that comes to £656,255 which is over the amount allocated, but initiatives such as the Hub Church are a five-year investment and for some of the other projects we will transfer them to the church growth funding once it arrives. Following Diane's update an opportunity for questions was given.

## **6. Analysis of the Mission Area Review Programme**

Sue invited Diane and Archdeacon Andy Grimwood to talk about the Mission Area Review Programme.

Diane said that she recognised what a big commitment this was from churches across the diocese and the review team worked really hard ensuring every single church in every mission area was visited. A review document was then produced for every mission area. The document reflected the visits to all the churches and all the other property that was contained in the mission area as well. Out of that, a set of recommendations and action plans were created. When we looked at the recommendations there was an overwhelming majority focused on two areas; mission & property, with nearly 40% of the focus being on mission.

There were 233 recommendations in total with 36% of those now have a green rating, meaning that they are either delivered in full or are well on track. 45% have an amber rating, meaning that they are being tracked and are progressing but they aren't quite there yet. 19% have a red rating, but there are levels to it, for example some of those recommendations are no longer appropriate or it's been decided that it wouldn't be the right course of action at the moment. Diane then invited Archdeacon Andy Grimwood to speak about the action plans.

Andy explained that once the reviews were done the mission areas were asked to come up with an action plan. The mission areas were asked to prepare the action plan in terms of prayer, proclamation, presence & persuasion incorporating the material from LyCIG so that the plans are a part of the overall diocesan strategy. An example of a mission area action plan was shown to the committee. Andy explained that the action plan is a live document and it should continually change according to your circumstances, things will be added and removed as time goes on and as goals are achieved. The Archdeacons are here to support the mission areas with the action plans, to meet up with the mission areas on a regular basis to see how you're getting on and asking what help you may need from the diocese to reach your goals. Sue thanked Andy & Diane and asked if anyone had any questions.

Following this session attendees were given a comfort break.

## **7. Safeguarding – Rollout plans for My Church People**

Sue welcomed everyone back after the break and introduced the next item. Diane started this session by sharing a safeguarding video from Archbishop Andrew John.

Jon Morris Diocesan Director of Operations then introduced himself and walked the committee through the plans to successfully deliver the safeguarding plans across the diocese including the use of the new My Church People Application. These were broken down into:

- Safeguarding Training
- The need for clean and accurate data
- My Church People
- Training Support
- A time line for rollout

Jon spoke about the new application My Church People which has been created by SystemServe at the request of the RB in Cardiff. Jon noted that there are currently stability issues with MCP and encouraged people to take a step back while the issues are being resolved. It was announced that the RB have employed a dedicated trainer to assist with MCP, Matthew Ankin and we hope to put Matthew in touch with the mission areas once the data has been cleansed and the issues resolved.

Jon then asked Pam Vernon to take the committee through the timeline for rollout. Pam explained the planned timeline and deadlines.

What	Actioned by	Completed by
Safeguarding Training Modules for all volunteers.	Mission Areas. All MA's to encourage their volunteers to complete the necessary training sessions.	31 <sup>st</sup> July
Data cleansing via Mission Area & Church Returns Pt 1	Excel spreadsheets to be sent out to Mission Areas to confirm them to confirm if the data is accurate or what amendments are needed.	1 <sup>st</sup> May
Data cleansing via Mission Area & Church Returns Pt 2	Diocesan Office. To input all updates.	30 <sup>th</sup> June
My Church People Training sessions	Diocesan Office & Mission Areas. Once all data is checked and updated, the diocese will arrange for a training session with Matthew Ankin, MCP Training Support Officer.	31 <sup>st</sup> August

Questions were then invited.

## 8. Diocesan Conference 2023

Sue then asked Diane to provide an update for the plans for the 2023 Diocesan Conference. Diane reminded everyone that it has been four years since we all got together physically for the Diocesan Conference and feedback indicated that it was important we did this again. It was decided that this year the Diocesan Conference will take a hybrid approach separating the business and more joyful aspects into two sessions.

**Business session - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 7pm – 8.30pm on Zoom**

**Worship Session - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October from 2pm – 3.30pm In St Asaph Cathedral**

The theme of the conference will be Asaph 1450 but the focus will be looking to the future to see how we take the lessons learned and the experiences that we've had into the next chapter of our life as a diocese. Questions were then invited.

## **9. Casual Vacancies on the Governing Body & Standing Committee of the Governing Body**

Sue introduced the detailed paper that was circulated to all members of the committee, extending her apologies from Diane regarding the error in the candidates biography. Diane explained that due to short timescales and an oversight of the vacancy we have had to propose a candidate. The candidate if accepted, would only serve for the remainder of the year. following the retirement of Revd Stuart Evans a vacancy was made on the Governing Body and Chancellor Pam Powell ceased to be a member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales at the end of last year, therefore creating a casual vacancy on the Provincial Standing Committee.

Revd Christine Owen has agreed to offer herself as a candidate for election to both vacancies. Members of the Standing Committee were asked to approve the appointment of Revd Christine Owen to both casual vacancies, to serve until 31 December 2023.

Results of the vote

For 95%

Against 2%

Abstain 3%

Revd Christine Owen was approved by the committee to take up both vacancies.

## **10. Matters Raised by the Mission Areas**

Sue noted that no mission areas had come forward with any matters to be raised and another opportunity was extended to them. No matters were raised.

## **11. Date of the next meeting:** 10am to 3pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at All Saints, Southsea.

Bishop Gregory paid tribute to Diane McCarthy who has served the diocese for over 13 years as Diocesan Secretary. The bishop commended Diane for all her hard work, dedication and all she has done supporting the mission and ministry of the diocese.

The meeting closed with a prayer led by Bishop Gregory.