

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES of the Leeds Board held at 6.30pm on 15 November 2017 at Church House, 17-19 York Place, Leeds LS1 2EX.

Present:

The Rt Revd Nick Baines (Chair), The Ven Paul Ayers, Mr Simon Baldwin, Mrs Marilyn Banister, Major Geoffrey Berry, Ms Kay Brown, The Revd Canon Simon Cowling, The Ven Dr Anne Dawtry, The Very Revd John Dobson, Mrs Jane Evans, The Rt Revd Jonathan Gibbs, The Rt Revd Toby Howarth, The Ven Andy Jolley, The Revd Martin Macdonald, The Ven Bev Mason, Mr Andrew Maude, Canon Ann Nicholl, The Rt Revd Tony Robinson, The Rt Revd Paul Slater, The Ven Peter Townley, Mrs Jane Wardman and The Revd Nigel Wright.

In Attendance:

Mr Ashley Ellis, Mrs Debbie Child, Mrs Judith Calvert, The Revd Canon Andrew Norman, Mr Chris Tate and Ms Alison Bogle.

Speaker:

The Revd Canon Robin Gamble.

1. Opening prayers.

The Ven Bev Mason led the opening prayers.

2. Welcome and Apologies.

The Bishop of Leeds welcomed the members of the Board to the meeting. The Revd Canon Robin Gamble was also welcomed. Robin was to give a presentation on LYCiG (Item 8).

It was announced that Ashley Ellis, Joint Diocesan Secretary, had decided to leave the diocese at end of March 2018. It was also reported that The Revd Martin Macdonald was standing down from this commitments to the Leeds Board and Finance Advisory Group at end of 2017. Martin was thanked for his work for the diocese and was congratulated on his forthcoming marriage at the end of the year.

Apologies had been received from The Revd Canon Tony Macpherson and Mr Peter Foskett.

3. Declarations of interest.

Members were reminded of the need to declare any conflict of interest on matters on the agenda.

Bishop Toby Howarth disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 9 “Joint Venture Arrangements” as he is the Chair of Wellsprings and Faithful Neighbours.

4. Minutes of the Leeds Board held on 4th July 2017 and Notes from the residential meeting on 15-16 September 2017 for approval.

A copy of the draft Minutes of the Leeds Board meeting held on 4th July 2017 and the Notes from the residential meeting on 15-16 September 2017 had been circulated to the members and were for approval.

The minutes from the Leeds Board meeting on 4 July 2017 were approved unanimously.

The Notes from the Leeds Board Residential meeting on 15-16 September 2017 were approved unanimously.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting 4 July 2017 and Notes from the residential meeting on 15-16 September 2017.

It was asked that the Power Point presentations from the Leeds Board residential meeting be put in the Leeds Board members’ page of the diocesan website.

Matters which should be kept confidential/redacted from online publication.

The Board agreed no items were to be redacted from the Minutes of the Leeds Board meeting on 4 July 2017.

The Board agreed no items were to be redacted from the Notes of the Leeds Board meeting on 15 – 16 September 2017.

The Board attended to Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee business. The non-elected Archdeacons joined the Board and the Area Bishops became observers.

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Episcopal Areas Mission and Pastoral Committees for noting.

A diocesan website link to the draft minutes of the Bradford Area Mission & Pastoral Committee Minutes 05/5/17, draft Huddersfield EAMPC Minutes 15/05/17, draft Leeds EAMPC Minutes 25/04/17, draft Ripon EAMPC Wakefield EAMPC Minutes 09/05/17 had been circulated to the Board members. The Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee Secretary, Mrs Judith Calvert, confirmed that these were for noting. There were no questions raised.

7. Report from the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee Secretary.

A report from the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee Secretary had been circulated to the Board. Judith gave an overview of her report and highlighted that a review of the membership of the Episcopal Area Mission and Pastoral Committees by the DMPC was to be carried out not less than every three years and was due in 2018. It was noted that there had been a number of vacancies on the EAMPCs this year. The 2017 elections for the Lay members of the Deanery Synods had had an impact on this as the members of the deanery synods were the electorate and potential candidates for these elections.

Judith Calvert left the meeting.

8. LYCiG presentation from The Revd Canon Robin Gamble, Bishop's Adviser for Church Growth.

Robin Gamble gave a presentation on Leading Your Church into Growth. Robin tabled a leaflet "What do we do next?" which set out ideas for church growth in the diocese. LYCiG had been chosen as one of the tools the diocese would use to encourage and achieve church growth. Clergy are required to attend a residential course on LYCiG if they come to work in the diocese. This gives experience and training to grow churches. Each Episcopal Area has a LYCiG learning community to encourage clergy and laity to re-look at LYCiG to refresh knowledge and support and encourage one another. There is also a LYCiG course for each parish to use. The next development would be to train a small group of clergy who have growing churches to be a one to one help for other clergy/meet with PCCs/lead vision days in the diocese ("LYCiG champions"). The members were asked to consider:

- 1 How to encourage more clergy and key lay leaders to attend the local groups?
- 2 Approval of the proposal to train the one to one LYCiG team.

The members discussed the presentation and questions. The feedback on question 1 included:

- There may be members of the laity who would have the skills to be LYCiG champions
- LYCiG was useable across the diocesan church family
- Prayer was a key part of the LYCiG approach and included a collect for church growth
- LYCiG and church growth is included in the vacancy and appointment process
- It was important to gain encouragement from growth in weekday services.

9. Joint Venture Arrangements.

Members had been circulated with LB17-11-07, a discussion document. The Revd Canon Andrew Norman and Bishop Toby Howarth gave a brief introduction, followed by questions and comments in preparation for a finalised proposal being brought to the Board in January 2018. The proposal was for two charities (Faithful Neighbours and Wellsprings Bradford) to join together to have a wider reach and encourage churches to join together across the diocese. The members gave initial feedback and clarification was given as follows:

- The cost and funding proposals for the proposal would need to accompany the proposal brought to the Board
- The detailed proposal would first be considered by the trustees of Wellsprings and Faithful Neighbours
- There will be a joint venture working agreement and articles of association
- The new company will be a subsidiary of CUF.

It was agreed that the matter be progressed to reach finalised proposals to bring to the Board for approval.

10. Financial Update.

Members had been circulated with information on the Parish Share report to 30.9.17, Finance report to 30.9.17, Notes from the Finance Advisory group 25.5.17, Notes from the Finance Advisory group 22.6.17 and Notes from the Finance Advisory group 13.9.17. Ashley Ellis reported that parish share payments had increased by 1% compared with the same period in 2016. It was felt that the parish share surgeries had contributed to an increase in payments. However current receipts were 59% of the total share request needed at the three-quarters of the year stage. The overall collection forecast remained the same as, historically, a significant proportion of the share payments were made in the last week of December. The Finance report forecast a £3.3m deficit, a reduction from the previous month. The main savings were due to vacancies in stipendiary ministry posts (approximately £1m). £2m of the forecast deficit was under collection of parish share. There were also costs above budget, for example £0.5m property maintenance. It was noted that the 2017 budget had been formed from the budgets of the three former dioceses and the 2018 budget would be the first diocesan budget to reflect the new diocesan structures.

Diocesan Peer Review

Debbie Child tabled a paper "Diocesan Peer Review: self-assessment". Debbie reported that the diocese was to have a Peer Review. All dioceses were having Peer Reviews. The review would focus on the six areas outlined in the self-assessment form. The peer review would be on 13 December 2017 and carried out over one day. Three reviewers would visit the diocese to discuss the diocese's understanding of its strengths and weaknesses with a small group of post holders stipulated by the peer review process. The review would be in the form of a panel discussion and would be followed up with a report.

Bishop Nick had requested a meeting with the Dioceses Commission and other national bodies to discuss the re-organisation of the three former dioceses and the creation of the diocese of Leeds. A meeting had been arranged for 22 November 2017.

11. Strategic Plan update.

Bishop Paul Slater gave an update on the progress of the Strategic plan development. He confirmed that the two sub groups, Purposeful Resourcing and Dynamic Partnerships were now in operation. The Clergy and Lay Together group had reported and Jane Evans had now joined the Strategy Group. It was proposed that the Strategy Group would report early in 2018 in time to feed in to the Budget process.

Bishop Paul also reported that it was hoped that the outcome of a bid to the Strategic Development Fund for the Resource churches project would be known in early 2018. The Revd Canon Andrew Norman reported that the first resource church was underway as The Revd Mark Harlow had now moved to Ireland Wood and would be joined by lay members.

12. Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer – appointment for 2018 Diocesan Synod elections.

Ashley explained that the Bishop's Council appoints the Diocesan Electoral Registration officer for diocesan elections. In readiness for the Diocesan Synod elections 2018, the Leeds Board needed to appoint a DERO and it was proposed that Heather Burge, the current DERO, be appointed as the Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer.

This proposal was agreed unanimously.

13. Proposed Items for Diocesan Synod 2018.

The Board members had been circulated with a list of items identified by the Diocesan Synod Agenda sub-committee for the Leeds Board and Diocesan Synod meetings in 2018. The members discussed this. The comments included:

- There should be a 10 minutes "good news" items from across the dioceses at the Diocesan Synod to encourage and inform
- There could be an Education report item to give an update on current issues and progress
- Possible debates: Church in the region; Welfare reform; "What happens after Brexit?"

The Diocesan Synod agenda sub-committee were asked to review the proposed items to include consideration of the Leeds Board members' discussion.

14. Leeds Board Residential review/date.

The members discussed the September 2017 Leeds Board Residential meeting and whether there should be future residential meetings. It was agreed that there would be a Leeds Board Residential meeting in 2018 on the same basis as the 2017 residential but to start later on the Friday and run through all day on the Saturday. A date would be circulated as soon as possible so that members could diarise the date.

15. Any other business.

Election of Lay member of Bishop's Council to Appointment Panel for appointment of Dean of Wakefield

A lay member of the Bishop's Council was to be elected by and from the Bishop's Council of the diocese of Leeds. The Revd Martin Macdonald proposed Jane Evans and this was seconded by The Revd Canon Simon Cowling. Jane Evans confirmed she was content to be a member of the appointment panel.

The members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

16. Close.

The Bishop closed the meeting.