

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

Present:

The Rt Revd Nick Baines (Chair), The Revd Canon Paul Ayers, Mr Simon Baldwin, Mrs Marilyn Banister, The Rt Revd James Bell, 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 Revd Canon Tony Macpherson, The Ven Bev Mason, Mr Andrew Maude, Canon Ann Nicholl, The Revd Arani Sen, The Ven Peter Townley and Mrs Jane Wardman.

In Attendance:

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

1. Opening prayers.

The Ven Peter Townley led the opening prayers.

2. Welcome and Apologies.

The Bishop of Leeds welcomed the members of the Board to the meeting. The Revd Andrew Norman, Director of Mission and Ministry was welcomed.

Apologies had been received from:

The Rt Revd Paul Slater

The Rt Revd Tony Robinson.

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

None was declared.

4. Minutes of the Leeds Board held on 16th November 2016 for approval.

A copy of the draft Minutes of the Leeds Board meeting held on 16th November 2016 had been circulated to the members and were for approval.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

There was one matter arising: Item 10: the Parish Share Assessments were sent to the parishes *during the week* of 17 November 2017.

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

The Board agreed no items were to be redacted.

The Board now attended to Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee business. The non-elected Archdeacons now 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 and the draft Minutes of the Huddersfield, Leeds and Ripon Areas Mission and Pastoral committees had been circulated to the Board members. The Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee Secretary, Mrs Judith Calvert, confirmed that these were for noting.

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

A report from the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee Secretary and the Annual Report of the Closed Churches Task Group had been circulated to the Board.

Questions on the reports:

Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee Report

The Bishop outlined the aspects of the suspension of a patron's right of presentation and the Bishop's right to restrict the right of presentation.

Closed Churches Task Group Annual Report:

A query was raised about the length of the process for closing churches – particularly the use seeking period after the physical closure. Judith confirmed that the closure process was being considered in the current review of Mission and Pastoral procedure.

The Board now considered the non-Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee business and the non-elected Archdeacons now became observers and the Area Bishops re-joined the Board.

8. Financial update.

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Parish Share return spreadsheets for the months ending 30.11.16 and 31.12.16. Ashley reported that at the end of 2016 the Parish Share receipts were more or less the same as for 2015. The response to the 2017 Parish Share requests had been mixed. Share surgeries were being held in Ripon Episcopal Area to discuss queries and concerns with parishes. The launch of the Finance Services team would be happening this year. The team

would provide finance services to the parishes eg processing payments, management accounts, PCC accounts and other finance services support.

9. Financial challenges – Post Brexit; Dioceses and Cathedrals.

The Board members had been circulated with three documents from Joint Meeting of the House of Bishops and the Archbishops' Council: "Preparing for a post Brexit future"; "Financial Management in Dioceses and Cathedrals" and "Facing the financial challenge". The Bishop outlined that papers looked at different aspects of the financial issues facing dioceses and Cathedrals generally and post Brexit. The Board discussed issues arising from the papers, particularly the scope of the Board members' responsibilities, training it might need and that it was key for the Board to consider issues on a long-term basis. It was agreed that the Board would be circulated with the minutes of the meetings of the Finance Advisory group.

10. "The Gospel, Sexual Abuse and the Church" – The Faith and Order Commission theological resource.

The Board had been circulated with a link to the Faith and Order Commission's resource "The Gospel, Sexual Abuse and the Church". The Board members commented on the report noting that it provided a theological resource when reflecting on the complex issues surrounding Safeguarding and noting that the resource had been circulated to the parish Safeguarding Officers.

The Ven Andy Jolley left the meeting.

11. Bishop's Revised Instrument of Delegation (to the Area Bishops).

The Bishop notified the Board that he had delegated some functions to the Area Bishops by instrument of delegation with effect from 1st January 2017. A copy of the Confidential Instrument of Delegation would be circulated to the Board members after the meeting.

12. Appointment of new Bishop of Ripon.

The Board had been circulated with a confidential draft Role Specification for the Bishop of Ripon. The Board commented on the document and were asked to let the Bishop have any further comments within 24 hours.

13. Dioceses Commission re status of Bishop of Richmond.

The Bishop reported that it was hoped that the status of the Bishop of Richmond could be changed to that of an area bishop. This would need to go before General Synod but the appropriate timing for this was currently being considered.

14. QI Scheme (revised).

The Board had been circulated with a revised QI Scheme. The Revd Canon Simon Cowling spoke to this item. A Scheme had been presented to the Diocesan Synod but this had been referred back for further consideration. General Synod was to review the Measure affecting QI schemes and as an interim measure the Bishop had issued a Scheme for the diocese. It now seemed that General Synod would not be reviewing the Measure and so this revised Scheme would be taken to the March 2018 Diocesan Synod for approval. The revised Scheme had been devised with input from

the DAC Secretary, the Diocesan Registrar and advice from the Church Buildings Council and was compliant with the 1955 Measure and addressed the issues raised at the Diocesan Synod with regard to the Fund that had to be established and the register of inspectors.

It was agreed that the revised Scheme be sent to the Diocesan Synod for approval.

15. Agenda items for approval for the Diocesan Synods 18th March 2017 and for 10th June 2017.

The Board had been circulated with proposed items for discussion for the next two Diocesan Synods. The Board was invited to comment on the proposals. The following items were suggested:

- Diocesan Environment policy
- Communications Strategy
- Brexit cohesion for the church community
- The diocesan Communications strategy
- Lay Ministry/Confident Christians – it was noted this was already earmarked for later in the year
- Education structure
- Inter Faith relationships (after possible General Synod discussion)

It was agreed that a small group would address which items should be included in the three Synod Agendas for the next 12 months.

16. Any other business.

It was confirmed that the Leeds Board residential meeting would be from 10.30am on 15th September 2017 to 4pm on 16th September 2017. The Leeds Board meeting on 18 September 2017 was cancelled and business items would be dealt with at the Residential meeting.

17. Close.

The Bishop closed the meeting with the Grace.