

MINUTES of the Leeds Board held at 6.30pm on 17th October, 2016 at Church House, 17-19 York Place, Leeds LS1 2EX.

Present:

The Rt Revd Nick Baines (Chair), The Rt Revd Jonathan Gibbs, The Rt Revd James Bell, The Rt Revd Tony Robinson, The Rt Revd Paul Slater, The Very Revd John Dobson, The Ven Dr Anne Dawtry, The Revd Canon Tony Macpherson, Canon Ann Nicholl, The Revd Canon Paul Ayers, The Revd Canon Simon Cowling, Major Geoffrey Berry, Mr Andrew Maude, Mrs Jane Wardman, The Revd Martin Macdonald, Canon Simon Baldwin, Mrs Marilyn Banister, Mrs Jane Evans, The Ven Paul Hooper, The Ven Bev Mason and The Ven Peter Townley.

In Attendance:

Mr Ashley Ellis, Mrs Debbie Child, Mrs Judith Calvert, Mr Peter Foskett, Mr Chris Tate and Ms Alison Bogle.

1. Opening prayers.

The meeting opened with prayers led by Bishop Tony Robinson.

2. Welcome and Apologies.

The Bishop of Leeds welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Chris Tate, Diocesan Director of Communications. The Revd Canon Paul Ayers was congratulated on his appointment as the new Archdeacon of Leeds and The Ven Paul Hooper was wished well for his retirement.

Apologies had been received from:

Bishop Toby Howarth

The Revd Canon Tony Macpherson

The Ven Andy Jolley

Ms Kay Brown

It was reported that The Revd Canon Andrew Norman had been appointed as Director of Mission and Ministry to the Diocese and would begin work in January 2017.

3. Declarations of interest.

Members were asked to disclose any conflicts of interest concerning any items on the Agenda.

None were disclosed.

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

A copy of the Draft Minutes of the Leeds Board meeting held on 16 June, 2016 had been circulated to the members. These were for approval by the Board.

There was one amendment to the second sentence of paragraph three of Item 10 to read. "There had been an increase in the value of investments held by the Board".

All Agreed.

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

There were no matters arising from the Minutes and no matters to be redacted from the Minutes.

(The non-elected Archdeacons replaced the Area Bishops for the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral matters Items 6 and 7.)

6. Dioceses Re-organisation scheme – report.

Bishop Nick gave a Power Point presentation reviewing the progress of the new diocese from the Dioceses re-organisation scheme coming in to effect and being legal, viable and operational in 2014, reviewing what type of diocese was needed in 2015, migrating to the new structures in 2016 and then looking to the future in 2017, operating as one diocese and one structure. A new outward looking strap line of "Loving, Living, Learning" had been adopted which it was hoped would be understandable to those outside the church. The plan for the next years of the diocese would be for a consolidation of and monitoring of the effectiveness of the governance in 2017 – 2019. In 2019 there would be a review of the administration including a review of the role of the diocesan bishop and then, from 2020 – 2025 a new programme for the diocese would be in place. There were areas to reconsider and/or put in place and ongoing risks (for example the change to diocesan funding by the Church Commissioners under the Renewal and Reform) but there were also opportunities for innovation through the new diocesan office, coherence of diocesan activity, Strategic Development Fund, delegation to Area Bishops and a focus on lay discipleship, training and ministry.

The Board discussed the presentation and confirmed a similar presentation should be given to Diocesan Synod.

The Board next considered Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee items.

7. Minutes of the meeting of the Bradford, Leeds and Ripon Episcopal Areas Mission and Pastoral Committees for noting.

Judith Calvert confirmed that the Minutes from all five of the Area Mission and Pastoral Committees were for noting only and were taken as read. No questions were raised.

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

A summary report from Judith Calvert had been circulated to the Board members prior to the meeting. Three episcopal areas were looking at deanery re-organisation: Bradford EA's deaneries would reduce to four on 1st January 2017; Ripon EA's Bowland and Ewecross deaneries were currently in the process of amalgamation in to one deanery and Leeds EA was looking at having one deanery for the whole episcopal area. There were no questions raised on the Bradford, Ripon, Huddersfield and Wakefield matters referred to in the report.

The Leeds Board as DMPC was asked to consider the proposal for a single deanery for the Archdeaconry of Leeds. A copy of a rationale for the one Leeds deanery from Bishop Paul Slater had been circulated to the Board and Bishop Paul was given leave to speak on this item. He highlighted that the proposal was to introduce a different approach with one deanery and clusters of parishes with mission initiatives. The resulting deanery would have a large membership (as set out in the rationale paper) and so would require a second scheme under the Church Representation Rules as the deanery would have more than 150 members. Peter Foskett, Diocesan Registrar, explained that such a scheme would need the approval of the House of Bishops and two thirds of each House of the Diocesan Synod. In addition, if approved by the Diocesan Synod, it would then need to be laid before General Synod where a request could be made for it to be debated. Archdeacon Paul Hooper added that having one deanery would be an effective way of dealing with a large city area.

The Board discussed the proposal. Although there was positive feedback reflecting the thinking behind the proposal, concerns were expressed by the Board members particularly around:

- The reduction of Lay Chairs from the current four to one
- Each Deanery Synod representative would be one voice in a much larger Deanery Synod – would this be perceived as diminishing the laity?
- The proposals for the clusters: What will they be? Who will decide? Which clusters will work together? What mechanisms ensure dialogue, scope the working together for mission?
- Would clusters just add an extra layer of structure?
- There could be potential implications for adopting such a structure for the other episcopal areas
- What would an alternative proposal be (eg two deaneries?) if Diocesan Synod rejected the proposal?

It was proposed that the matter not be sent for consideration at the next Diocesan Synod meeting and that the proposal be referred back to the Bishop of Richmond and Archdeacon of Leeds for further consideration, particularly with regard to answers to the concerns raised by the Board and an alternative proposal should one be needed.

For the proposal – 7 members

Against the proposal – 2 members

It was agreed to defer the matter.

At the end of Item 8 Judith Calvert left meeting. The Leeds Board considered the next non-DMPC items on the Agenda.

9. Approval of additional item for the 5 November 2016 Diocesan Synod agenda.

This item was not needed as the matter had not been referred to the Leeds Board by the DMPC under Item 8 above.

10. Safeguarding report.

Debbie Child reported that feedback from the Safeguarding audit had gone well and that the diocese was now waiting for the formal written report.

11. Reconstitution of the Board of Education.

Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, Chair of the Board of Education, reported that there were two key issues facing the Board of Education: its composition – to reflect the skills set needed and secondly, whether the Board should be constituted as a charitable company in its own right. Peter Foskett explained that the current Board of Education was populated with members of the former dioceses' Boards of Education. The regulations governing the Board of Education allowed for co-options and so members with the necessary skills set could be introduced to the Board under the current structure.

Bishop Jonathan outlined that this allowed more time to consider whether the Board should be incorporated. It was now proposed to give an overview of the issues at the November 2016 Diocesan Synod and bring the revised proposal to a future Board and Diocesan Synod. Ashley Ellis explained that there were issues to address concerning the balance between funding (95% of which came from parish share) and governance.

12. Financial update and Outturn.

Members have been circulated with a copy of the Parish Share returns spreadsheets for the months ending 31.8.16 and 30.9.16 and also Finance Reports for the months ending 31.8.16 and 30.9.16. Ashley spoke to this item. Parish Share receipts were down by 1% with only 53% of the total Share paid. This impacted on the forecast deficit, increasing the forecast deficit to £1.4m. Investment income had reduced partly due to the purchase of the new diocesan office and refurbishment of diocesan housing. A review of all diocesan properties was in hand to establish what repairs and maintenance works were needed.

13. Parish Share Historic Arrears.

Members had been circulated with a copy of a proposal for the write off of historic share arrears. Ashley spoke to this item and sought the Board's views on the proposal. Board members commented:

- A scheme to engender a new way of working and to encourage the reduction of historic share arrears was needed
- Parishes should be made aware that the proposal was a jubilee
- The introduction of a write off scheme needed to be sensitive to those parishes who had worked hard to pay share.

Bishop James Bell left the meeting.

14. Parish Share Scheme update.

Members had been circulated with a copy of a Parish Share scheme booklet, Parish Share launch update and Power Point presentation on the Share Scheme. A copy of the Parish Share scheme booklet had also been tabled. Ashley and Archdeacon Anne Dawtry presented this item. The information to be sent to parishes with notification of their share allocations included a booklet and Power Point presentation, a prayer, Bible notes and sermon notes would be available on the diocesan website. Jane Bower was making a tie in short film (focussing on what the share payments made possible) which would be available when the assessments were sent out. The Board members were asked for feedback – suggestions included information being available at deanery as well as parish level.

15. Revised Diocesan Synod Standing Orders – motion for approval.

Members had been circulated with a copy of the revised Standing orders, a copy of the revised Standing orders showing the amendments circulated to the Diocesan Synod in the summer – (red amendments) and the amendments following the comments from the Deanery Synod member (blue amendments), a note of the key changes and also a note of proposed amendments subsequently received. Ashley presented this item and explained that the current Standing Orders of the Diocesan Synod were approved until the end of 2016. A copy of a revised draft of the Standing Orders had been circulated to the Diocesan Synod members in July 2016 for comments. An updated revised draft and motion were for approval by the Board to go to the November Diocesan Synod for debate.

The Board members were asked to consider the items on the note of amendments subsequently received (LB-16-10-10-3).

After discussion:

The Board agreed all the proposals under Section 1 – to SO 8, SO 72 and SO 97.

The Board rejected the proposed amendments under Section 2 – to SO 19 and SO 21.

The Board rejected the proposed amendments under Section 5 – to SO 17 and SO 27 and SO 69.

Subject to the above, the Board approved the proposed motion for the Diocesan Synod meeting on 5th November, 2016,

“That the Diocesan Synod’s Standing Orders be amended as set out in document LB-16-10-10.”

but also asked that the Standing Orders review group consider and add a provision to LB-16-10-10 requiring a motion brought by individual members to be supported by a proportion of the Synod members before it could be considered for inclusion on the Agenda.

16. Elections to Deanery Synods in 2017 – Numbers of parish representatives – formula for approval.

Ashley presented this item. Elections for Deanery Synod lay members were to be held at the 2017 APCMs. Diocesan Synod needed to approve the formula for the number of representatives to be elected by the parishes. A copy of a proposed formula and example of the allocations for each parish had been circulated to the Board. The formula was based on the parishes’ electoral roll figures. The Church Representation Rules provided there was an upper limit to deanery synods of 150 members and a lower limit of 50 members. The proposed formula uplifted the Lay Deanery synod allocation for any deanery synod which had below 50 members. The uplift was pro rata the electoral roll figures of the parishes in the deanery. This excluded the parishes with fewer than 26 members on their electoral roll as the CRR provided that they were not permitted to have more than one member.

The formula and following motion for Synod were for approval by the Board:

“That the proposals for determining the number of lay members to be elected to Deanery Synods from the parishes, as set out in paper LB-16-10-11 be approved.”

All Agreed.

17. Scrutiny Panel Proposals.

Ashley presented this item. The governance structure adopted by the Diocesan Synod provides for a Scrutiny Panel to be set up. This process needed to be implemented. A copy of a proposal for the implementation process had been circulated to the Board. This was for discussion/comment. Only 17 people had volunteered for the Scrutiny Panel so far. The Board discussed this and commented that more information should be available to the Synod members about the areas to be scrutinized so they could assess if they had the skills needed.

18. Formal approval of change of registered office of Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance.

The registered office of the company was currently at the former Wakefield office. The Board’s approval was needed to formally change the registered office to the new diocesan office.

The Chair moved that:

“That the registered office of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance be at 17/19 York Place, Leeds LS1 2EX”.

All agreed.

19. Any other business.

Leaf Multi Academy Trust

Bishop Paul Slater notified the Board that a replacement DBF representative on the Leaf Trust would be needed when The Ven Paul Hooper retired. It was proposed that The Revd Arani Sen be the DBF representative.

All Agreed.

Next meeting would be on 16th November, 2016.

20. Close.