

## BISHOP'S COUNCIL & STANDING COMMITTEE

Update for Diocesan Synod June 2022

This note summarises the recent work and decisions of the Bishop's Council & Standing Committee (BCSC) since March 2022 and is shared with the Diocesan Synod for information. This update does not include Council business that will be covered elsewhere on the Synod agenda.

Synod will be invited to raise questions at the meeting.

The Council has met twice since their last update in April and June.

### Cost of Living Support for Clergy

In April, the Council asked Officers to prepare plans for providing financial support to clergy and employees considering the ongoing cost of living crisis.

At the end of May we were able to announce to our clergy colleagues that we are launching a dedicated grant fund to support clergy facing challenges with the cost of living over the next 12 months. We are grateful to the Archbishops' Council who have released £3m to support clergy across the country, £50,000 of which has been made available to our diocese. In addition to this amount, our Bishop's Council has agreed to provide further grants from our own Diocesan Clergy Welfare Fund.

As Synod will see, Bishop's Council have asked that financial support for lay employees be included in the draft 2023 budget.

### Office Review Group

The Council have received an update from the Office Review Group which is considering options and proposal for a future home for the Diocesan Team. At present the Diocesan team lease the top floor of Wolvesey from the Church Commissioners, providing hot desking space for 20, and a meeting room. Our lease comes to an end in November 2023.

Old Alresford Place is still owned by the WDBF but is currently moth-balled pending the final decision of the Office review Group and Bishop's Council.

The Review Group are carefully balancing the facilities and space needed by the diocesan team, against the financial, environmental and operational constraints.

### Communications

Earlier in the year, the Bishop's Council decided to review our communications function, and bring our 9-year working relationship with Luther Pendragon to a close. Notice has now been served and our contract with Luther Pendragon will cease in September 2022.

The Bishop's Council have asked a small group to work with the Diocesan Secretary and Bishops Debbie and David to consider the resources, experience and expertise needed in a new diocesan communications function moving forward.

## Vacancy in See Committee

In the last update to Diocesan Synod, we shared the full list of members of our Vacancy in See Committee noting the one remaining co-option.

Since then, Catherine Ogle has reluctantly decided that she needed to stand down as Chair (whilst remaining as a full member of the Committee). As required by the Regulations, the Bishop's Council are responsible for electing a new Chair from the existing membership. This process resulted in Reverend Canon Charles Stewart being chosen.

At their April meeting the Bishop's Council appointed Eve Paterson (Andover Deanery) to the remaining co-opted place on the Committee.

The full list of the Diocesan Vacancy in See Committee is now as follows:

Chair (& Elected Clergy)	The Reverend Canon	Charles	Stewart
Secretary to the Committee	Mr	Colin	Harbidge
Chair of House of Laity	Mr	Alastair	Barron
Chair of the House of Clergy	The Reverend	Andrew	Micklefield
Suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke	The Right Reverend	David	Williams
Suffragan Bishop of Southampton	The Right Reverend	Debbie	Sellin
Archdeacon of Winchester	The Venerable	Richard	Brand
The Dean of Winchester	The Very Reverend	Catherine	Ogle
GS Rep Clergy	The Reverend	James	Pitkin
GS Rep Laity	Dr	Simon	Clift
GS Lay Rep	Dr	Julie	Maxwell
GS Lay Rep	Mrs	Alison	Coulter
GS Lay Rep	Mr	Andrew	Orange
GS Rep Clergy	The Reverend Dr	Ben	Sargent
Elected Clergy	The Reverend	Angie	Smith
Elected Laity	Mr	Gwilym	Stone
Elected Laity	Miss	Sarah	Boothman
Co-option	The Reverend	Nived	Lobo
Co-option	Mrs	Sarah	Duck
Co-option	Mr	Ian	Dighe
Co-option	Mrs	Eve	Paterson

Further communications and updates on the work and timetable of the Vacancy in See Committee will follow, in the meantime members are invited to share any thoughts or questions with Charles by emailing [vacancyinsee@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:vacancyinsee@winchester.anglican.org)

## Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee Business

The Bishop's Council, in their role as Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee continues to review and consider a high number of proposals for pastoral reorganisation. Many of these proposals require challenging, emotive and difficult judgements to ensure our resources and structures can best serve our shared mission.

The DMPC remain grateful to the many PCCs, Deanery Pastoral Committees and members of our Deanery teams for engaging with these consultations with openness, compassion and grace.

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**May 2022**