

## Annual Report 2017

**Terms of Reference:** The Council has a dual role and function, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod and giving advice to the Bishop on any matter about which he consults the Council.

### ***Living God's Love***

During the year, the Council continued to receive regular reports on the progress of Living God's Love, and in particular, an update from the Director of Mission who reported that Deanery events had been completed and the new web MAP system was up and running. The Council noted that Goldmine had gone live and parishes were populating it with photographs. The Director of Mission confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Lay Chairs and Rural Deans focused on three of the ten actions for growth, (1) worship; (2) youth and children and (3) fresh expressions of church. The Council noted that the input and perspectives of the Lay Chairs and Rural Deans had helped to paint the picture of the current situation and work that was required to address these actions to make new Disciples of Christ. The Council noted that to enable streamlined and focused work within the Living God's Love Vision, and to build on the greater collaboration between the mission and ministry departments, the Board for Church and Society and the Council for Discipleship and Ministry had been merged to form a new Board for Mission and Ministry. The Council noted and celebrated the work that had been built on and developed over the last five years.

*During the year the Council met four times, the Policy Sub-Committee met three times and the Agenda Group met five times. The Council dealt with the following major subject areas:*

**Fresh Expressions Project:** – The Council congratulated the Director of Mission and his team for the enormous amount of work that had gone into putting together the proposal and obtaining the funding from the Archbishops' Council. The Council received an update from the Director of Mission who confirmed that the Bishop of Hertford was Chair of the new Governance Group which would oversee the Fresh Expressions Project. The Council noted an Interim Project Manager post had been established to oversee the first 100 days of the project, and appointments were made for two out of the three Fresh Expressions Development Officer posts and for the Training Coordinator and Administrator posts.

**Proposed Constitution for a New Board for Mission and Ministry:** – The Council received and discussed the proposed constitution for a new Board for Mission and Ministry and noted that it was generally felt that by combining the Board for Church and Society and the Council for Discipleship and Ministry this would bring huge benefit going forward. At its September meeting, Diocesan Synod approved the constitution for the establishment of the new Board.

**Safeguarding:** – The Council welcomed the appointment of Mr Martyn Hedley as the Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and noted that the Safeguarding Working Group were looking at working practices in the Diocese to ensure that policies were up to date. The Council further noted that the Safeguarding Audit

had taken place in September, and that the initial feedback from the Safeguarding Auditors was positive and encouraging. The final report would be received before the New Year.

**Ministry Strategy:** – Early in the year, the Council received and discussed the draft 2020 Vision for Ordained and Authorised Ministry paper and the Council noted that the paper was “work in progress”.

**Boards and Committees:** During the year, the Council received reports from the Boards and Committees.

**General Synod:** During the year, the Council received reports on proceedings at General Synod.

**Budget and Accounts:** The Council approved the budget and accounts for presentation to Diocesan Synod.

In response to an amendment to the budget motion put to Synod, the Council reviewed the budgetary and other implications of proposed redundancies of diocesan staff, and the reasons thereof, and will report back to Synod in 2018.

**Diocesan Synod Triennial Elections for 2018-2021:** The Council unanimously agreed to recommend to Diocesan Synod that the numbers to be elected to Synod for the next triennium should remain the same as in the current triennium.

**Review on Diocesan Statistics:** - Early in the year, the Council received papers on the Diocesan Statistics. The Bishop of Hertford and the Director of Mission introduced the Review and reminded Council members that the statistics included in the papers were average figures and should be regarded as such.

**Linköping Cathedral Covenant renewal:** – The Council agreed to support the Renewal of the Covenant between the Dioceses of Linköping in the Church of Sweden and St Albans in the Church of England.

**New Constitution for Readers' Association:** – The Council received and unanimously recommended the proposed new Constitution for the Readers' Association to Diocesan Synod.

**Church Representation Rules:** – The Council approved four Schemes required under the Church Representation Rules to make provision for (i) Establishing a Group Council; (ii) Establishing a Team Council; (iii) For Joint Parochial Church Council and (iv) For separate representation of congregations and establishing District Church Councils.