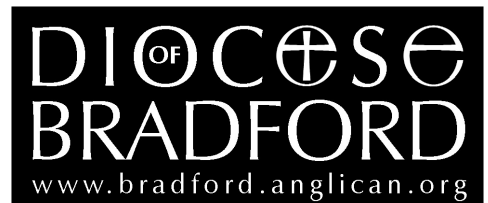


**BISHOP'S COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE
and the Board of Directors of the
Bradford Diocesan Board of Finance**



**Minutes of the meeting of the above Council held
in the Board Room, Kadugli House,
on Thursday 19 March 2009 at 7pm**

Present: Bishop David James (Chairman)
Mrs Sharron Arnold
The Revd Paul Ayers
The Ven David Lee
Mr Roger Marks
The Revd Peter Mayo-Smith
Mr Mike Moss
The Revd Canon John Nowell
The Ven Paul Slater
Mrs Nora Whitham
Mr David Gibson
The Revd Canon David Mewis
The Revd Paul Tudge
Mr Chris Wilcock
Mr Geoffrey Garnett

In attendance: Mr Malcolm Halliday (Diocesan Secretary)
Mrs Debbie Child (Assistant Secretary)
Mr Peter Foskett (Diocesan Registrar)
Mr Ian Fletcher (Chairman, Church in the World)
The Revd Canon Sam Randall (Bishop's Officer, Ch. in the World)
The Revd Canon Denise Poole (Bishop's Chaplain)
The Revd Sue Hope (visitor)
Mr Stan Jenkins (Chairman, Ministry & Mission)

The Bishop welcomed the Revds Sue Hope and Peter Mayo-Smith to the meeting. Sue is the new Priest-in-Charge of St Paul's Shipley and Adviser in Evangelism to the Diocese. Peter Mayo-Smith is curate at Idle and has taken on the role of the DBF Vice Chairman.

The Revd Canon Sam Randall conducted the opening worship.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mrs Diana Chambers (Chairman, Board of Education)
The Very Revd David Ison
Mr Ian Hamilton
Mrs Jill Wright
Mrs Janet Bower
The Revd Canon Ken Medhurst

217. Going for Growth

Sue Hope talked about the importance of going for growth and evangelism in a multi-faith society because the message of the Gospel, which we have to offer, is one of healing and transformation and is something we must share. She talked about God's rescue of us and how many of us minister through healed wounds; we need to reach out to outsiders and particularly to those who are hurting; Sue felt that many people are hurting and need the support of the Church. She talked about making disciples and becoming missionary congregations. She said there are choices to be made, but evangelism always propels us to the future. There are huge challenges but hopefully the clergy will rediscover the power of the Gospel.

Sue remained for the rest of the meeting.

218. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2009

The minutes were agreed with one alteration. Item 207(d) – Clergy & Lay Conference – Paul Slater pointed out that he had said that the Synodical Liaison Committee had reflected on this and it would now go to the Bishop's Staff for discussion.

219. Matters arising from the Minutes

(a) Environment Day

Sam Randall reported that this would probably be in November.

(b) Future Faithful - Bishop's deanery visits

The Bishop reported that he had visited six of the deaneries, but still had to visit Ewecross and Bowland. He explained that over Easter he would be re-writing his Future Faithful strategy and bringing the updated version to the May meeting of the Council.

(c) Clergy and Lay Conferences

No update. Stan Jenkins said that many clergy had commented that the "Leading your Church into Growth" conference in Whitby had felt like a clergy conference, so was there still a requirement for a clergy conference? Bishop David favoured a joint clergy and lay conference.

Action: to be discussed at Bishop's Staff.

(d) Future of the Diocese

Paul Slater reported that the paper has gone to the deaneries and we have asked for a written response from them in time for the next meeting of Synod. Bishop David wondered if any further information should go to the deaneries because he thought the paper wasn't enough. Paul Slater said that he had, that day, spoken to Colin Podmore from the Dioceses Commission, who had said that he thought it was a very useful paper which gave lots of options.

After a little discussion it was agreed that the Synod minutes of the Future of the Diocese debate would be sent to deaneries.

220. Presence and Engagement

(a) Introductory paper

Denise Poole referred to her paper BISCOU/item4, explaining that Presence and Engagement is not quite the same as inter-faith work but it encompasses it. In 2005 the Church of England through General Synod committed to resourcing ministry & mission in multi-faith areas, and dioceses were asked to review their own strategies in relation to presence and engagement. At present, Bradford does not actually have a written strategy although it is undertaking a considerable amount of the work. Denise explained that this was not just an urban issue, it affects the whole Diocese although in slightly different ways; one is actual, the other more virtual.

(b) Group discussion

The Bishop's Council broke into groups of four to discuss Denise's paper and then returned for questions. Peter Foskett wanted to understand specifically what *engagement* meant. Denise said it was about dialogue and bridge building - it was multi-faceted and it did include conversion. There were questions and discussions around the idea of conversion of our Muslim neighbours; this had to be within the limits of respect and good community relations. Sam Randall said that engagement was what Church in the World is presently trying to do – supporting the voiceless communities. The Bishop's Council agreed to set up a working party to develop a strategy giving consideration to the points listed in BISCOU/item 4. This will return to Bishop's Council before submission to Synod.

Paul Tudge was slightly concerned that Point (i) of the proposal, sounds as if we may be considering resourcing ministry in the multi-faith areas, perhaps to the exclusion of other places. Paul Ayers felt as if it might sound as though this was a change to our policy and that other people might get less in order for these areas to have more. It was suggested we might look to say "continuing to witness in these areas" or another phrase to clarify.

Stan Jenkins felt that a five year strategy was quite short term and it would be better to look in the longer term. There was some debate as to whether ten years was a good thing; it could be reviewed and amended if necessary during the term.

After some discussion a vote was taken and it was agreed we would have a five year strategy.

Sue Hope pointed out that hospitality was a key word which seemed to be missing from the paper. Denise agreed that it would be useful to put that back in.

There was some discussion about the membership of the working group suggested in the paper. Stan Jenkins pointed out that ministry & mission is mentioned quite a lot, but there is not a member of the Ministry & Mission Synodical Liaison Committee on the Group. Mike Moss felt that it was top heavy with clergy.

It was agreed that Sue Hope would join the group as part of her evangelism brief. It was suggested that Martin Baines, who is a retired senior police officer with years of working amongst faith communities, who has recently been made a Lay Canon, might be someone who could also join the group and increase the lay membership.

There was some discussion about the cost of running this working party and it was agreed that a budget of up to £2,000 would be made available.

221. Finance Matters

- (a) The minutes of the meetings of 19 January and 9 February 2009

These were noted.

- (b) Matters arising notified in advance

Sharron told the Council that Raymond Edwards, Chairman of the Pastoral Committee had agreed to join the Finance Committee for an initial period of at least six months.

Bishop's Council agreed to this appointment filling the vacancy left by John Dyson's resignation.

- (c) Brief report on current state of play – local & national

Malcolm Halliday explained news about the clergy pension scheme – the actuarial review is to be brought forward to the end of April 2009 and the next rise will probably be 1 January 2010 and not 2011. It is likely that the contribution rate may rise to between 50% and 60% whereas at present it is 39.7%; this is mainly due to the drop in investments in the current climate and the age profile of the members.

Sharron Arnold reported that she and David Lee are meeting with the Cottingley Cornerstone Trustees very soon and would report back from that meeting.

- (d) New sources of money

There was a working party which has looked at this but unfortunately did not manage to come up with anything significant; Sharron would like to see some new life generated into this. It needs to be restarted, perhaps with some more people on it because we must look for new sources of funding.

It was reported that a DVD is to be produced, particularly to show to the parishes which are paying large shares and subsidising others, to see how this money is actually being spent.

The Secretary reported that Bishop David's presidential address is to be published in the BDN as one of the ways of trying to spread his message of the need for generous giving - in the present economic climate, we Christians who are in work with secure pensions should be looking at generous giving to support those less able to give.

Bishop David in the Chair

222. English Heritage Project Worker

It was explained that the cost to our Diocese would be an average of £4,000 per annum with if we took on a full time worker in liaison with our neighbouring dioceses of Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield. At present there is nothing at all in the budget for this item.

John Nowell reported that the DAC felt that this was not cost effective and there was too much work to be spread over 3 dioceses and so had voted against it. Sam pointed out that the funding was likely to be for Grade I and II listed buildings. There was further discussion reflecting the uncertainty of the Bishop's Council.

Bishop David proposed to explore this further with Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield.

This was agreed with 7 in favour and 5 against.

223. Church in the World matters

Sam reported that the lamp library is no longer functioning; most of the bulbs can be bought locally following the Government's decision to phase out tungsten bulbs.

He flagged up three conferences:-

- 24 June "Jesus as the Community Organiser"
- 22 September "Creating a Safer Church"
- 12 October "Restoring Faith in Finance"

224. Ministry & Mission matters

Paul Slater reported that the Going for Growth Group is going to become an increased part of the Ministry & Mission's brief and he would now be chairing that Group.

225. Board of Education matters

David Lee reported that the Board of Education would be contributing £250,000 as part of the Promoter's set up commitment to the establishment of the Bradford Academy.

226. Communication Committee matters

Mike Moss said there as little to report except that each new diocesan initiative seemed to increase the Communications budget at a time when they were trying hard to reduce it. The Bishop wanted the Finance Committee to look at this, but Mike explained that many of the initiatives came from the Bishop's Staff meeting. Bishop David reiterated that he would like the Finance Committee to look at this.

227. Diocesan Synod – reflections on "How we are doing"

This item was deferred to the next meeting as time had run out.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date of next meeting:

Friday 8pm (6pm) – Saturday 9 May (3.30pm) at Parcevall Hall