



# Esgobaeth Llandaf Diocese of Llandaff

Lle Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Where Faith Matters

## Llandaff Diocesan Conference 2022

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### Report of the Diocesan Standing Committee 2021 - 2022

Under the Constitution of the Church in Wales and the Diocesan Constitution, Governance is the responsibility of the Diocesan Conference, which generally meets once per year and delegates authority to the Diocesan Standing Committee (DSC) to make decisions on its behalf. The DSC has delegated responsibility and receives reports from the various boards, councils and committees of the Diocese; develops strategic thinking and planning for the Diocese; communicates plans and decisions to all levels in the Diocese; exercises powers given to Conference by the Constitution of the Church in Wales; co-operates, supports and advises the Bishop; agrees boundary changes, facilitates the development of Ministry Areas and deals with other matters of strategy, law and Diocesan mission. The DSC is required to meet at least twice a year.

The Diocesan Standing Committee (DSC) has met three times since the last Diocesan Conference held in September 2021, as follows:

- On 18th October 2021 (in person)
- On 31st January 2022 (via Zoom)
- On 25th May 2022 (in person)

During these regular meetings, the DSC has dealt with the following items of business, among others:

- 1. Ministry Areas:** The progress and subsequent establishment of Ministry Areas (MAs), by Bishop's decree, on 1st January 2022. The DSC acknowledged the immense work required to be undertaken in all Ministry Areas resulting in their establishment and it received regular updates on their continued development and operation, including the diocesan support made available in terms of finance, administrative and legal resource and the convening of Colleges of MA Chairs, Leaders & Treasurers.
- 2. Diocesan Vision:** Regular updates were received on the progress of the Diocesan Vision (including activities grant funded by the Church in Wales Evangelism Fund) and the recruitment of the Young Faith Matters team, Engagement workers, Outreach workers and Mission enablers and the work they are undertaking across the Diocese and with MAs.
- 3. Citizen Church:** The DSC visited and received a presentation and regular updates about the work of Citizen Church, noting its significant growth and success. For example, average attendance at services are 220 plus 40 children (11am) and 170 (6pm); Online 150-200 views; regular giving increasing; young candidates presented for discernment and accepted as ordinands; 345 people undertook Alpha course in first year. Ambitious plans for Citizen Church "plants" in St. Peter's, Senghenydd and St. Mary's, Glyntaff are progressing, working closely with respective MAs.

4. **Messy Church:** a presentation on the development of Messy Church in Pencoed and its potential for implementation and development to attract new members across the diocese.
5. **Diocesan Constitution:** An amended Diocesan Constitution was approved bringing it up to date following the creation of MAs and aligning it to the Diocesan Board of Finance Constitution, which was amended in 2020.
6. **Diocesan Board of Finance:** Received regular reports from the Diocesan Board of Finance, including progress on the recruitment to vacant posts.
7. **Diocesan Conference:** Discussed the feedback from the Diocesan Conference in 2021 and agreed the plans for the Conference in September 2022.
8. **Vice Presidents of Diocesan Conference:** The DSC approved the Bishop's proposal to elect two Vice Presidents of Conference (one clergy and one lay) to work with the Bishop as President, the Secretary of Conference and Diocesan Secretary to develop the agenda and implement the Conference.
9. **Clergy Survey:** The DSC received a presentation and discussed the results of the anonymous Clergy Survey. All actions identified in response are being taken forward by the Strategy Delivery Team (SDT) and Bishop's Leadership Team (BLT) including more open and honest communication; more clarity on structures, processes and decision making, with clearer communication and publication of relevant minutes and papers; enhanced feedback from committee members to constituents. The work of the SDT and BLT will be reported in due course.
10. **Diocesan Office:** The DSC received and discussed an initial report considering the best location and working patterns for the Diocesan Office in the light of current staffing levels and the experience of hybrid patterns of working following the pandemic, which taken together, best serve and facilitate the implementation of the Diocesan Vision. More detailed proposals are being developed.
11. **Reorganisation of Deaneries:** The DSC considered and discussed a paper submitted by a Working Party established to review the purpose and geographical configuration of Deaneries and bring forward options for the future, cognisant of the creation of MAs and the deployment of the "new" Diocesan resources, granted funded via the Evangelism Fund. The paper and options will be subject of further discussion at the Diocesan Conference where representatives will be asked to express their views, whilst noting that under the Constitution any final decision is that of the Bishop.

The DSC agreed the following changes to parish and Ministry Area boundaries:

1. To move the St. David's part of the then parish of Margam into the Ministry Area of Port Talbot and to move Margam Abbey into the Ministry Area of Margam.
2. To remove St. Mary's Church, Glyntaff from the Ministry Area of Pontypridd and the Pontypridd Deanery and to move to Citizen's Church in the Cardiff Deanery.

Diocesan Conference is invited to note the contents of this report and the work of the DSC on its behalf.



**Howard Rees  
Secretary of the Diocesan Conference**