



**DRAFT MINUTES of a Meeting of  
the Llandaff Diocesan Conference Standing Committee  
held online on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, commencing at 6.00pm.**

**Participants:** Revd Emma Ackland, Jen Denham, Matthew Dixon, Michael Lawley, Revd Philip Leyshon, Harriet Morgan, Revd Edward Dowland-Owen, Revd Miles Pateman, Archdeacon of Margam (Ven Mark Preece), Raye Saunders, Bishop of Llandaff (Rt Rev Mary Stallard), Revd Marc-Ashton Walford.

**In attendance:** Christine Dando, James Laing (Diocesan Secretary), Andrew Keyser, Heather Payne, Moira Randall, Sue Rivers.

- 1. Welcome and Opening Prayers** by the Bishop of Llandaff.
- 2. Apologies** were noted from David-Lloyd Jones, Archdeacon of Llandaff (Ven Rod Green), Very Revd Jason Bray, Deryn McAndrew
- 3. Bishop's report**  
Bishop reported a sense of joy and optimism in the diocese as we work through Lent and the busy start of the year.
- 4. Diocesan Board of Finance Chair's report**  
Mike Lawley (DBF Chair) reported that the DBF is particularly busy this year as we embark on a review and the final year of the Evangelism Fund and DBF Vision fund from reserves – which have proven resilient so far. After these programmes finish there may be some staffing implications which are currently under consideration. We are focusing on support in property, finance and communications. The RB is offering an HR service from May. Our Director of Finance, HR and Administration resigned and recruitment for a new head of finance is under way. Recognising that 2025 is the first year of Common Fund, payment of contributions and arrears are high on the DBF agenda. The Church Growth Fund is getting going with some programmes funded in other dioceses, and we are going through a period of consultation, will draw together a bid which will come back to the DSC before submission.

Some discussion followed about MAs' use of reserves, decline of giving levels and how the DBF might provide support on this issue. What does "good" look like, as we devise CGF programmes, so that money and energy is not wasted, but we build on what we are already doing successfully in the EF programmes and the work of ordinary people.

**5. Territorial Reorganisation**

The Bishop reported the impending revival of the Archdeaconry of Morgannwg and appointment of an Archdeacon of Morgannwg. The details of the Archdeaconry boundaries are being worked through and will be presented to the DSC in due course, with careful consideration as to the deaneries and MAs included within it.



## 6. Archdeacons' Matters

6.1. **Archdeacons' Visitations** have been led by both Archdeacons in recent years, looking at planning and vision in year one, resources (including finances and Common Fund) in year two, and evangelism and growth in 2024-5. Ideas have been generated, to be followed up at Deanery Chapters and Conferences to coalesce around agreed programmes. The Archdeacon of Margam noted energy and positivity in these discussions, and willingness to work together on developing joint ideas. These ideas include engagement workers, hub churches, and pilgrim routes signposting people to spirituality, pathways of faith and prayer.

6.2. This year the Archdeacons and Area Deans are also carrying out **compliance visits** to make sure that buildings are safe, people are supported, records are kept and updated, and MAs are run in as safe, healthy and effective a manner as possible. A discussion was held about who in the MA should be responsible for compliance – a nominated volunteer (perhaps the GDPR officer) or Warden.

7. **Education report** was noted by the Committee.

DSC noted the report. Bishop thanked the education team for their hard work.

## 8. Safeguarding Update

The Diocesan Secretary noted that the College of MASOs will meet on 24<sup>th</sup> March, but there are currently no cases or policy issues for DSC to decide upon. The Bishop thanked everyone involved and underlined the importance of good safeguarding.

## 9. Governing Body Update

The Bishop noted success so far of the Same Sex Blessings Listening Exercises in other dioceses, without contentious debate or campaigning. The intention is for all regular worshippers to be able to attend, speak if they wish (ideally informing the Bishop first), and to listen to others. This will come back to the Governing Body later in the year.

MA self assessment survey results will be presented and then published in as effective and understandable way as possible.

## 10. Representative Body update

The meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March will be taking a deep dive to St Padarn's, as well as looking at strategic plans and funding for growth and resilience, central provision of safeguarding and HR, the usual governance matters and reports from the various subcommittees. The RB has developed significantly over the last five years, and is an effective body.

## 11. Draft Minutes of the 2024 Diocesan Conference

The Committee noted the draft minutes and discussed some lessons learned for the 2025 Conference. Zoom was thought to be a better platform than Teams for the online part of the Conference. Standing Orders are to be sent before the summer with the agenda, Annual Report and supporting papers, including reminders to



submit complicated questions in advance, about how the technology works and to ask questions in a courteous, collegiate and effective manner. The agenda should allow time on Saturday to pick up on complicated matters.

This is an election year for a new Diocesan Conference as well as the Electoral College and annual Governing Body elections. DSC noted the benefits of electing the same people to Deanery and Diocesan Conferences, which can enable a stronger lay voice and who are widely familiar with the work of the Church at various levels. The DSC agreed to encourage clergy to stand for DSC and DBF.

ACTION: JL to send out more information.

12. **Minutes of the DSC Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were approved** with no changes.

13. Matters arising from the Minutes

13.1. **Transparency:** publishing records of DSC meetings

**DSC agreed to publish Minutes** of actions/decisions from today, when they are approved. Confidential information may be redacted if necessary.

14. **Dates of future meetings**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm (possibly Joint DBF/DSC in person to discuss CGF)

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm (provisional DSC) – to be changed because of GB

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm (DSC)

15. The meeting closed in **prayer**.