The Archbishops' Council was established in 1999. The Council is a charity, set up in law to co-ordinate, promote, aid and further the work and mission of the Church of England. It does this by providing national support to the Church in dioceses and locally, working closely with the House of Bishops and other bodies of the Church. The Archbishops' Council is one of the seven National Church Institutions.

Our objectives

The Archbishops' Council has nine objectives.

Evangelism

To bring more of the people of England to the faith of Christ through the Church of England

Discipleship

To strengthen the Christian faith and life of all who worship God in the Church of England

Ministry

To ensure there are sufficient ordained and lay ministers of the required gifts and qualities who are effectively deployed to enable the Church of England to fulfil its mission, and to support those ministers in their calling, development, ministry and retirement

Common good

To contribute to transforming our society and communities more closely to reflect the Kingdom of God through loving acts of neighbourliness and service to all

Education

To promote high-quality Christian education in Church of England schools and voluntary education settings, and through our Church contribution to other schools, colleges, further and higher education institutions

Resources for the Church

To help dioceses and cathedrals to be most effective in their mission, by providing cost-effective national and specialist services and advice

Safeguarding

To ensure all children and vulnerable adults are safe in the Church

Governance
To operate the national governance arrangements of the Church of England as cost-effectively as possible in pursuit of the Church's mission

A Church for all people

To be a Church that can provide a home for all people in England

The Archbishops' Council Objectives for 2017–2020

Our work

The Council and its staff achieve these objectives in a number of ways. Our work can either be indirect or direct and largely falls under seven types of activity:

- Legislate, regulate and deregulate matters (directly or through General Synod)
- Distribute money
- Provide national services to dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, schools etc.
- Provide consultancy services
- Campaign and engage publicly
- Enable the Church to govern itself
- Engage people directly, especially through digital means

The work of the Council over the past year is described in more detail in its annual report which includes a list of grants to dioceses and other institutions awarded by the Council, and is debated by the General Synod each year.

Social Impact Investment Programme
In 2020, the Archbishops Council set up a Social Impact Investment programme, funded by the Church Commissioners, to deploy social investment capital to advance the Church's missional objectives. The programme is designed to support projects which share the Church of England's Christian values and benefit society.

Through this programme, the Church of England is making £16 million available for a social impact portfolio, which will seek investments targeting deep positive impact. The project is managed by, and works closely with, the Mission and Public Affairs division.

The portfolio will focus on investments that strengthen communities, particularly through access to housing and access to affordable finance, as well as investments that focus on protecting and sustaining the environment. The portfolio will be invested primarily through investment funds and similar investment vehicles, targeting investments with a geographic focus in England.

The programme has been designed to complement the Five Marks of Mission and to complement the work of the Archbishops' Council, set up to co-ordinate and further the work and mission of the Church of England both on a local and national level.

The programme will align with the wider Ethical and Responsible Investment policies and guidelines of the Church's Ethical Investment Advisory Group.

An Investment Committee has oversight of the social investment programme and the programme is managed by the Head of Social Impact Investment.

Archbishops' Council Members

The work of the Archbishops' Council is governed by the Council itself, a board of trustees comprising:

Joint Presidents
The Most Rev and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Most Rev and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury
The Venerable Luke Miller

Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York
The Revd Kate Wharton

Chair of the House of Laity
Canon Dr Jamie Harrison

Vice-Chair of the House of Laity
Mrs Alison Coulter
Elected by the House of Bishops
The Rt Rev Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
The Rt Rev Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham

Elected by the House of Clergy
The Rev Dr Ian Paul
The Rev Tim Goode

Elected by the House of Laity
Dr Rachel Jepson
Mr James Cary

Church Estates Commissioner
Mr Alan Smith, First Church Estates Commissioner

Appointed by the Archbishops
Mr John Spence
Mrs Maureen Cole
Mr Mark Sheard
Mr Matthew Frost
The Rev Charlotte Cook
Mr Joseph Diwakar

Administrative Secretary
Jenny Jacobs

Staff
Here is a guide to the departments, committees, councils and staff who work together to support the Archbishops’ Council’s Objectives.

Secretary General
William Nye

Evangelism and Discipleship
Director: Dave Male

Renewal and Reform
Director: Debbie Clinton

Setting God’s People Free
Programme Director: Dr Nick Shepherd
Central Secretariat
Including the General Synod, Bishops’ meetings, governance meetings of the Archbishops’ Council, Safeguarding, Liturgical Commission, Dioceses Commission and the Council for Christian Unity

Director: Dr Jacqui Philips

Mission and Public Affairs
Including the Mission and Public Affairs Council, Healthcare Chaplaincy and the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

Director: The Rev Dr Malcolm Brown

Cathedral & Church Buildings
Including the Church Buildings Council and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England

Director: Becky Clark

Education
Including the National Society and the Foundation

Director: The Rev Nigel Genders

Ministry
Including the Ministry Council and the Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme

Director: The Rt Rev Chris Goldsmith

Human Resources
Including the Remuneration and Common Services Committee and the Council for Ministry of and among Deaf and Disabled People

Director of People and Change: Christine Hewitt-Dyer

Legal Office
Including the General Synod

Director: Alexander McGregor

Communications
Including Church House Publishing and the Digital Team

Director: Mark Arena

Prayer for the Day
Sunday, 6 March 2022
Your browser does not support the audio element.
Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The First Sunday of Lent

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