

GENERAL SYNOD

Summary of decisions by the House of Bishops and by its delegated committees

1. This summary of decisions includes a summary of decisions made by the House and by committees delegated under standing orders to handle business on its behalf.

The House of Bishops (HOB)

The House of Bishops 9 – 11 December 2019 at Lambeth Palace

2. Those matters reported in paragraphs 3 to 9 were taken in a Committee of whole house under standing order 14.
3. The House considered a paper on *Lessons Learned from the Church Buildings Review* and endorsed its recommendations.
4. The House gave further extensive consideration to the latest iteration under *Living in Love and Faith*. Members of the House provided comments on the content of the draft materials and on an outline communication strategy. HOB agreed that a further revision should be seen by the College of the whole episcopate in January, and seen again for a decision by the House in March 2020.
5. The House welcomed the new Director of Safeguarding, Melissa Caslake, and considered a paper on *safeguarding*, endorsing the priorities identified for the National Safeguarding Team for 2020.
6. The House considered a report from *the Implementation and Dialogue Group* on the Five Guiding Principles, chaired by the Bishop of Rochester. It provided feedback to the ongoing work of the group and concentrated on some emerging recommendations from the Group's work. The House asked to see this item again, preferably in May 2020.
7. The House agreed a paper provided on the service provided on *See Housing*.
8. The Bishop of London led the House in a discussion on issues on the voice of the bishops in *contemporary politics*.
9. The House of Bishops considered a paper on the *See of Islington* and endorsed the national role (subject to local episcopal oversight) of the Bishop of Islington in church planting for the coming triennium. It agreed the planned review of progress with the See in 2020 by the Dioceses Commission originally set at its restoration in 2015. HOB stressed the linkage with other national initiatives of evangelisation.

The House of Bishops Standing Committee (HBSC)
The House of Bishops Standing Committee 6 November 2019 at Church House, Westminster

10. The Standing Committee agreed the process going forward for the House set out for *Living in Love and Faith* and stressed the importance of identifying the mechanism for driving it forward after the launch.
11. Given the volume of business for the House agenda in December, the Standing Committee remitted the *National Giving Strategy* to the House of Bishops Delegation Committee.
12. On the *Implementation and Dialogue Group* the Standing Committee was provided with an outline of the group's conclusions and recommendations thus far. The Committee agreed this for an item for the House of Bishops in December with comments on the work thus far.
13. HBSC heard an oral update on the issue of *additional funding for Provincial Episcopal Visitors and the Bishop of Maidstone*, which had originally been raised by the Dioceses Commission and considered by the Bishops and Cathedrals Committee. It was agreed that further work was required on the needs of the individual bishops affected. The matter will then proceed to the House of Bishops Delegation Committee when ready.
14. The Standing Committee decided that on *the See of Islington*, the House needed to confirm the national role of the bishopric and the Delegation Committee, in due course, to examine options for funding.
15. The HBSC decided that the House of Bishops should consider the *Lessons Learned from the Review of Church Buildings* prior to consideration by the Church Commissioners and the Archbishops' Council.
16. The Standing Committee decided to circulate notice of the principal items on the agenda for the House plus an update from LLF to Regional Bishops' Meetings for their consideration.
17. The HBSC appointed the Bishop of Leeds to be a member of the Development and Appointments Group.
18. The Standing Committee agreed the agenda for the meeting of the House of Bishops 9-11 December 2019.

**The House of Bishops Delegation Committee (HBDC)
The House of Bishops Delegation Committee 22 November 2019
Church House, Westminster**

19. The Delegation Committee asked about progress on Changes to the Clergy Capability Procedure.
20. The Delegation Committee considered a paper on *Deliverance Ministry* and asked to see it again following further work on the core organisational and structural papers with the National Safeguarding Team, and on the theology of deliverance.
21. The Delegation Committee considered in detail the draft guidance on *The Breakdown of Clergy Marriages and Civil Partnerships Pastoral Care and Practical Provision* and agreed it later in correspondence.
22. HBDC agreed the Civil Partnerships (Opposite and Same Sex) Pastoral Guidance as deemed business for the House with a minor amendment.
23. The Delegation Committee considered issues around national *funding for the See of Islington* but asked that the issues around this be set out before the House of Bishops in December.
24. The Delegation Committee approved the National Giving Strategy commended by the Archbishops' Council. The importance in the tapering of the funding provided for adviser posts was noted.

National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG) 7 November 2019

25. Written guidance on communicating with people through social media for NSSG members was requested, and to be brought to the next meeting for discussion.
26. The NSSG agreed to endorse the Anglican Communion Safeguarding guidelines.
27. The NSSG agreed with the proposed development process for future safeguarding policy, subject to input from the National Safeguarding Panel being incorporated at an earlier stage.
28. The NSSG agreed with the proposal that old safeguarding policy documents will be withdrawn, replaced by shorter and sharper revised safeguarding policy documents, and where possible existing documents will be amalgamated to create fewer documents overall.
29. The Lead Bishop of Safeguarding agreed to facilitate a wider discussion around 'accountability' at the next College of Bishops meeting.

30. The NSSG approved the proposed work programme for training and development.
31. The NSSG agreed to the strategic objectives proposed for safeguarding with the caveat that a theological underpinning is added and greater focus on prevention of abuse. The NSSG agreed to spend time at its next meeting working through the objectives in more detail. The NSSG wanted survivors' input into what safeguarding priorities should look like for the Church.

**Advisory Council for Religious Communities (ACRC)
25 June and 8 November 2019.**

32. The Council considered the draft text of the Religious Communities Regulations 2020 and made some amendments to them.
33. The Council received a report on the law related to Houses in Multiple Occupation.
34. The Council received reports on the Tree of Life Community in Leicester.
35. The Council was informed that arrangements were in place for all Visitors of religious communities who are retired to have C4 safeguarding training.
36. The Council received a report on Visitors to acknowledged communities and has established a group to do some more work on this.
37. The Council received a report on the IICSA Report on the Diocese of Chichester and Peter Ball. The Council noted the recommendation in the report regarding safeguarding in religious communities and will liaise with the National Safeguarding Team on updating the practice guidance.
38. The Council received a report on Terminology and the Religious Life, produced by a group from the Council.
39. The Council received a report on Expectations for Emerging Communities. The Council continues to monitor the situation regarding appropriate oversight of communities that are not eligible to be recognised or acknowledged.
40. The Council received a report on the Society of the Holy Trinity.
41. The Council received a report concerning Alongsiders.

Development and Appointments Group (DAG) 20 September 2019

42. A proposal for a Diocesan Bishops' Ministerial Development Review programme was explained to DAG. The group made changes to refine the programme ready to be piloted in early 2020 in the Southern Province.
43. DAG agreed for the work of Turning Up the Volume (TUTV) to be continued with reviewed and refreshed membership. DAG will continue to have oversight of the TUTV agenda for increasing BAME inclusion in senior appointments.
44. Target areas have been identified for TUTV's work in 2020-22, including work with Deans to increase the number of BAME clergy in Cathedral ministry, and working to identify BAME clergy with the potential for Archidiaconal ministry.
45. The final module for the first cohort of the Senior Leadership Development Programme (SLDP) would take place in November 2019.
46. A paper outlining a process to manage any safeguarding concerns that may be identified during the appointment of Archbishops, Bishops and Deans was agreed by DAG subject to sign-off by the Crown Nomination Committee Central Members.
47. DAG decided that the CCSL/BSCL (Bishops current status letter) submitted for episcopal and decanal nominations should be completed by the Diocesan Bishop personally, and not delegated (e.g. to the Bishop's Chaplain or to an Area Bishop).
48. DAG agreed to set up a small group to review the process of appointing Suffragan Bishops to be chaired by the Very Revd Dr John Davies, Dean of Wells.
49. DAG agreed the draft Terms of Reference for this review, and a paper outlining these will be presented to the House.

William Nye
Secretary to The House of Bishops
January 2020