

## GENERAL SYNOD

## Report on the Archbishops' Council's Activities

## Introduction

The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the General Synod Meeting in February 2022. It has met twice on 20 March and 9 to 10 May 2023.

**Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, 20 March 2023, held at Prospero House, London**

1. The Council – in line with its commitment prioritise supporting the work on younger people – considered progress on the objective of doubling the number of **children and young people** engaged in the Church of England. It had the opportunity to hear videos from the front line and discuss the resourcing of engagement with young people digitally. It also reflected on the impact of the Growing Faith Foundation in changing culture.
2. The Council discussed a number of items related to **finance**. This included a progress report from the Audit Committee on the Annual Report and Accounts, a forward look to the budget, a stocktake on diocesan and parish finances, a report on the work of the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board, and considered proposals for allocating resources for net zero. The Council agreed to recommend to the General Synod that Carl Hughes should be appointed as the new Chair of the Finance Committee.
3. The Council heard from the Rt Hon Lord Boateng and Revd Guy Hewitt on the work of the **Archbishops' Commission on Racial Justice**. It agreed proposals for allocating triennium funding to racial justice work.
4. The Council discussed a number of **safeguarding** matters. It considered progress on the Interim Support Scheme and welcomed Jasvinder Sanghera and Steve Reeves from the Independent Safeguarding Board to discuss their work on phase 2 of the Board, and considered matters relating to the leadership of the Board.
5. The Council had a number of papers for information including progress on the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, management accounts, distribution of Commissioners Funds by the Council, parish buying and reports from sub-committees.

**Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, 9 and 10 May 2022, held at Bishopthorpe Palace, York**

6. The Council continued to discuss work on **younger people**, noting that this did not mean it was losing focus on increasing the diversity of the church. It focused on developing 30,000 leaders of mission and discussed options for supporting the FLOURISH network of worshipping communities in schools.
7. The Council devoted significant time to considering progress on **safeguarding**. It reviewed progress on the interim support scheme and agreed draft proposals to be presented to the General Synod on redress. It agreed to appoint Bishop

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Julie Conalty as a director and trustee of Safe Spaces England and Wales in succession to Bishop Debbie Sellin. It welcomed Meg Munn, Jasvinder Sanghera and Steve Reeves from the Independent Safeguarding Board and Jane Chevous, a survivor of abuse, to hear about progress on their work.

8. The Council heard from Professor Janet Walker on the work of the **Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households**, reflecting on the report "Love Matters".
9. The Council discussed a number of **finance** items including agreeing the Annual Report and Accounts (subject to residual work by the Audit Committee), agreed the budget for 2024 to be presented to the General Synod, considered proposals from the trustees of the parish giving scheme better to align incentives of dioceses and parishes to participate and received an update on the work of the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board. The Council also considered the first annual report of the Social Impact Investment Portfolio, which it welcomed with much encouragement.
10. The Council also agreed a framework for delegating budget decisions on Net Zero to the Net Zero Programme Board and reviewed the risks associated with Living in Love and Faith.
11. The Council considered the further work of the **Governance Review** and agreed the proposals to be taken to the General Synod.
12. The Council had a number of papers for information including on diocesan finances, the annual actuarial update of the Church Commissioners, an update on the work of the Board Effectiveness sub-group, and an update on the work on housing.

Church House, Westminster, SW1P 3AZ  
[June ] 2023

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Secretary General

Published by the General Synod of the Church of England  
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