

# GENERAL SYNOD UPDATE

May 2022

## Southwell and Nottingham Board of Finance and Diocesan Synod to meet on 14 May in Mansfield

The Church of England's Living in Love and Faith initiative and the Diocese's Growing Disciples strategy will be the major items of business when the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Synod meets at **the Samworth Church Academy in Sherwood Hall Road, Mansfield at 10 am on Saturday 14 May**.

Before the Synod meets its members will sit in their capacity as members of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) for its Annual General Meeting. The business of the DBF is formal: they will receive the annual report and consolidated financial statements for 2021; and approve the re-appointment of BHP as auditors for the current year.

The Synod business begins with an update on the work of the Bishop's Council – the diocese's trustee body; before moving on to formal business, including the constitution of the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Under new legislation – the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021 – every diocese must designate the form that its Board of Education is to take. This can be either a registered charitable company – either a company limited by guarantee or charitable incorporated organisation; an unincorporated registered charity; or the DBF.

Under the legislation, the designation for each Board of Education is proposed by the bishop with the consent of the

existing Board of Education for the first two options, or the DBF for the final option.

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) is a Church of England-wide initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. It is a process by which the C of E seeks to discern how questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ; and what it means to live in love and faith together as a Church.

The national church institutions have published a suite of resources to help parishes, dioceses and the General Synod answer these questions.

At this meeting, Diocesan Synod members will receive an update from the Revd James Halstead, who, as the LLF Advocate for this diocese, is helping to assist the process of discernment here.

The Synod will also receive an update on the diocese's Growing Disciples initiative. The Anglican Communion around the world is engaged in a 10-year Season of Discipleship, in which Christians are being encouraged to live out their faith seven days a week in all areas of their lives.

In this diocese, the focus is on growing younger disciples, new worshiping communities, the School of Discipleship and vocation.

Synod members will engage in small group discussions for

both the LLF and Growing Disciples items of business.

The Synod will also receive annual reports and ask questions of three important bodies: the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory panel (DSAP), the Board of Education (DBE) and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

The DSAP oversees safeguarding in the diocese and is independently chaired with representatives from outside the church.

The DBE is a statutory body that interprets the Church's mission to children and young people through education, develops strategies to carry out that mission, and ensures that, through its officers, these strategies are translated into action.

The DAC – or, to give it its full name, the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches – is another statutory body. The DAC advises parishes about development or changes to church buildings and their contents, churchyards and other similar matters. They also advise the Chancellor – the judge of the consistory court – on applications for faculties.

The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Right Revd Paul Williams, will give an address to the meeting, which will begin with worship and end with a prayer of blessing.

**The press and public are entitled to attend the Synod.**