

Governance Changes in the Diocese of Winchester

Bishop Tim produced a document last year, considered and approved by the Bishop's Council in October and by the Diocesan Synod in December. The key sentences at the opening of the document were:

*"The structural and governance changes proposed in this document are changes with a purpose: to produce structures and governance which grow the vision of living the mission of Jesus, and so produce a mission-shaped Diocese. Living the mission of Jesus is a vision which is worked out in three dimensions: **Passionate** personal spirituality; **Pioneering** faith communities; and **Prophetic** global citizens. These three dimensions mirror the Quinquennium goals of the Church of England: to re-imagine ministry, grow the church and contribute to the common good. Together, they form what it means to live out the mission of Jesus. Becoming a mission-shaped Diocese will require clarity about what a Diocese is, also an effective mission strategy: a 'Four D' process for consultation and change:*

- **Describing:** *Where are we? What is robust? What is fragile?*
- **Dreaming:** *What could we become? Where could we go?*
- **Designing:** *How do we go about getting from here to there?*
- **Delivery:** *How do we do it?*

The structural changes are:

1. There will be a residential meeting of the Diocesan Synod every 3 years, to focus on the development of a diocesan vision, the first being in September 2013. It is intended that Synod's financial debates are based only on setting the mission objectives and approving total expenditure and parish share required, with high level amplifying information.
2. The Bishop's Staff team (the Bishops, Archdeacons, Channel Island Deans, the Dean of Winchester, the Diocesan Chief Executive, the Director of Discipleship & Ministry, the Bishop's Chaplain) will shape the Synod's agenda to focus on the development of a diocesan vision and to set the direction of travel over the coming years. Detailed work, policy formulation and the setting of priorities will be delegated to the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee (BCSC).
3. Membership of the BCSC has been reduced from 41 (including 14 staff in attendance) to 22, consisting of: the Bishop of Winchester (Chairman), the Bishop's Staff, the Chairmen of the Houses of Clergy and Laity, the Chair of the Finance & Property Sub-Committee, 2 elected clergy and 4 elected laity (including 1 from the Channel Islands), reduced from 4 elected clergy and 10 elected laity, with 3 staff in attendance
4. The Directors of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) have been reduced from 27 to 10, with the Bishop of Winchester Chairman.
5. The Finance Sub-Committee and the Property Committee have been merged. The new sub-committee, with membership from the BCSC, will comprise a Chairman (appointed by the Bishop of Winchester), the Archdeacons, 1 clergy and 2 laity, with the Deputy Diocesan Secretary and the Directors of Finance and Property in attendance.
6. The members of the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee (DMPC) will be the members of the BCSC excluding the Deans of the Channel Islands and Winchester. As before, the members of the BCSC, DBF and DMCC will all meet together, but with different voting powers.
7. The Archdeaconry Teams will increasingly become a significant part of the development of strategy for mission, providing input and views and a forum for sorting out local issues.
8. The cathedral will play an increasing role as a centre for mission and seat of learning.