

# Our common vision, diocesan staffing & committee structures

Diocesan Synod Induction | September 2021

Mark Humphriss | Diocesan Secretary

# Our common vision



is to become a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world.



**Contemplative  
Compassionate  
Courageous**

needed as never before in the context of COVID-19

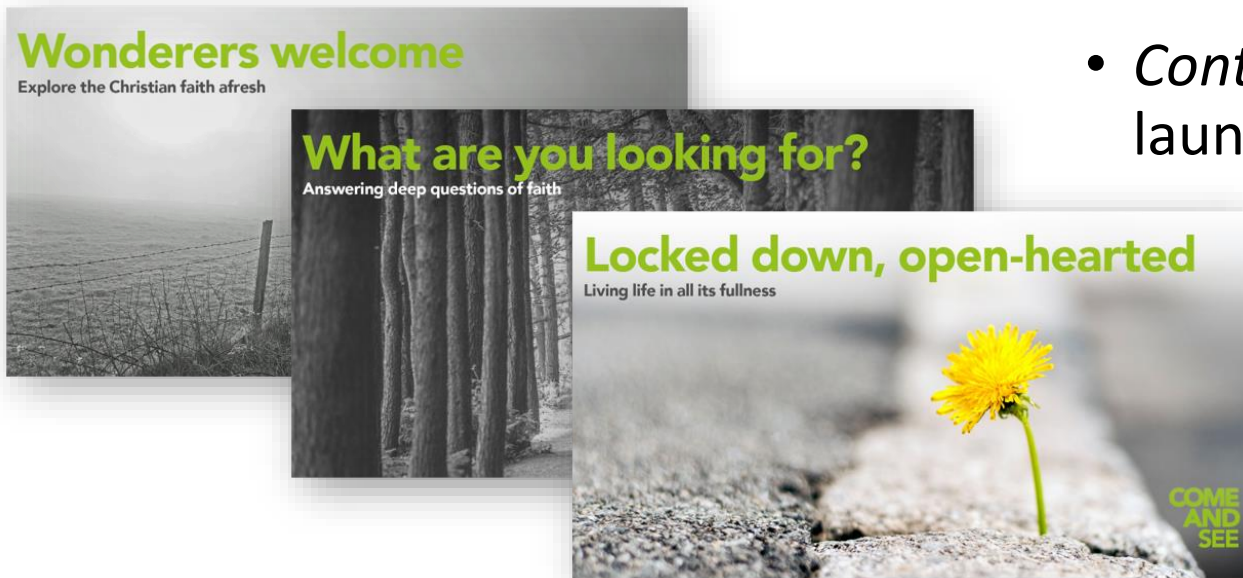
# 1. Environmental action



- Diocesan Synod declared a climate emergency, including commitment to net zero by 2035
- Environmental Task Group, chaired by +Olivia, harnessing substantial energy (and complexity)
- Net zero scope agreed nationally (churches, housing, schools), baseline work underway
- More church energy audits enabled >33% churches on renewable tariffs
- Environmental surveys of every vicarage
- Be The Change campaign with schools
- EcoHub and support now available.

## 2. Christian formation and discipleship

- 450 Personal Discipleship mentors now trained
- *Come and See*: a model of invitation and formation for all churches happening again in Lent 2022 with wide-ranging resources
- *Contemplative Toolkits for church/home* launched within Come and See



# 3. Growing new congregations

- National grant funding of £2m, matched by the diocese
  - to enable every parish to embrace a mixed ecology of church
- Resourcing hubs established
  - in Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Milton Keynes (2), Reading, Slough and Witney
- Greenhouses now being set up
  - Greenhouses are deanery-based support groups to grow new congregations
- A good number of online congregations emerged during 2020/21
- Embracing the opportunities of population growth and midweek mission initiatives
- New congregations are all shapes and sizes – in rural and urban settings, crossing church traditions



# 4. Children, young people and schools



- *Space Makers: the contemplative toolkit for schools* launched in September 2021
- 13 new Secondary School chaplaincies established
- 33 Primary Schools receiving some Chaplaincy (via Secondary Chaplains)
- Accessible resources & webinars on offer to rebuild & reconnect with church/home/school
- *Disciples Together* 'Five Shifts'
  - Discipleship Enabler for each area, supporting churches to be intergenerational

# 5. Addressing poverty and inequality

- Newest focus area in first year. A direct response to COVID
  - Partners include CAP, CAB and Children's Society
- Community Organising with Citizens UK
  - Milton Keynes, Reading, Oxford, rural pilot starting
- Research report to be published October 2021 with ideas of what is working locally
- *For Richer, for Poorer* report updated
- Aim to share good practice, encourage social action and identify priorities for further activity at diocesan level



**Round 1 (Sep 2019):** 61 applications (£1.6m), 36 awards (£293k)

**Round 2 (Jan 2020):** 45 applications (£1.9m), 27 awards (£578k)

**Round 3 (Sep 2020):** 31 applications (£1.2m), 19 awards (£647k)

**Round 4 (Jan 2021):** 29 applications (£0.7m), 15 awards (£233k)

**Round 5 (Apr 2021):** 20 applications (£0.7m), 13 awards (£337k)

**Round 6 (Jul 2021):** 12 applications (£0.2m), 8 awards (£168k)

- Deadlines end of January, April, July, October
- From April 2021 round, applications for ‘basic facilities’ (Cowley motion)
- Now £1.2m p.a., extended to at least 2024



# Church House staffing



## Department

- Mission and Ministry
- Buildings, Glebe & DAC
- HR and Safeguarding
- Communications
- Finance and IT
- Secretariat
- Director of Education

## Director

- Andrew Anderson Gear
- David Mason
- Poli Shajko
- Steven Buckley
- John Orridge
- Mark Humphriss
- Tony Wilson



# Episcopal areas



Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester



Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford




Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading



Rt Revd Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham



4 episcopal Areas  
29 deaneries  
626 parishes  
812 open churches, of which 675 are listed



A population of 2,415,000 with  
64,000 regular worshippers  
Approx. 45,357 people on the electoral role

# Diocesan governance structure

## Direct accountability

- Bishop's Council
- Partnership for world mission
- Interfaith committee.

## Indirect accountability (separate entities)

- Diocesan Board of Education
- Council for the deaf and hard of hearing
- Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd.



# Bishop's Council

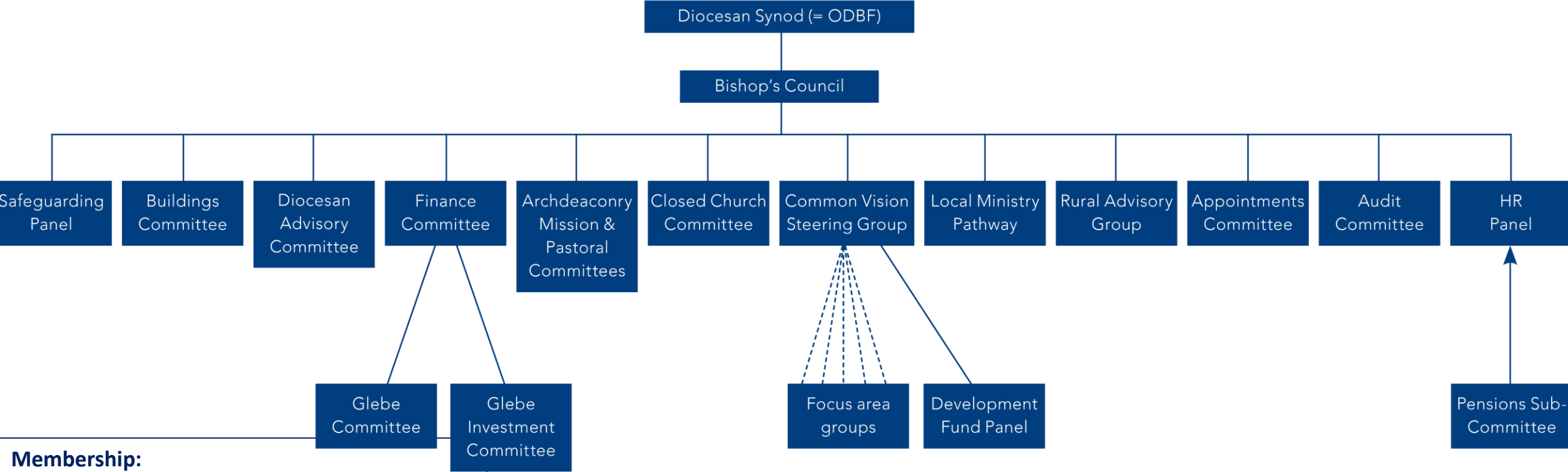
Board of directors of DBF,  
Diocesan Synod Standing Committee, and  
Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

About 34 members, most elected by Diocesan  
Synod

Chaired jointly by the Bishop of Oxford and the  
Chair of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance  
(currently John Tattersall)



# Bishop's Council committees



**Membership:**

- Ex-officio
- Elected by Diocesan Synod
- Appointed by Bishops Council...
  - via appointments committee
  - to achieve skills or diversity.

We have more parishes and churches than any other diocese in the Church of England.

There are 812 churches in 29 deaneries serving a population of 2.4m people and 283 Church of England schools serving 60,000 pupils.

Together, we work with God and with others for the common good in every place in one of the great crossroads of the world.

