



Monmouth Diocesan Conference Report

2024

Adroddiad Cynhadledd Esgobaethol Mynwy



Faith in
our Future

Diocese of Monmouth
Esgobaeth Mynwy

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Membership of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference

Aelodaeth Cynhadledd Esgobaethol Mynwy

1st July 2022 – 30th June 2025

All serving clergy under 70 years of age are members by virtue of the licence they hold from the Bishop, together with the elected representatives from the benefices and parishes of the Diocese.

President: The Right Reverend Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth

Secretary: Libby Morgan-Owen

Ex officio:

The Chancellor
The Chair of the Board of Finance
The Chair of the Property Board
The Chair of the Diocesan Trust
The Chair of the D.A.C.

The Registrar
The Secretary of the Board of Finance
The Secretary of the Property Board
The Secretary of the Diocesan Trust
The Secretary of the D.A.C.

Bishop's Nominations:

Mark Durbin

Susan Fergusson

Amanda Page

Andrea Thomas

Elected Lay Members by Ministry Area:

Abergavenny

Chris Cotterill

John Meredith

Nicki Needle

Martin Phillips

Beverley Smith

Caroline Woollard

Beechwood

Sue Batey

Carolyn Benavides

Amanda Berry

Paulette Brown

Philippa Dixey

Judith Hayward

Wendy Matthews

Cwmbran

Joe Chesterman

Ken Hunt

Ceri-Ann Jones

Keiron Jones

Angela O'Brien

Stephen Shand

East Cardiff

Rhys Collins	David Evans	Sue Greening	Phil Jones
Ian Loynd	Jen Mundy	Linda Redmond	Heather Shaw

Heart of Monmouthshire

Cathryn Brooker	Neville Crump	Rita Edwards	Lynne Eilertson
Lesley Evans	Priscilla Greenland	Gerry Hawkins	Jan Millet
Kay Spencer			

Islwyn

Ray Bevan	Joan Jelley	Ruth Lawler-Davies	Angela Perkins
Hannah Rowan	Sandra Ward		

Mid Torfaen

Susan Downs	Sian Harvey	Lindsay Prosser	Joanne Roberts
Paul Johnson			

Monmouth Marches

Alan Carter	Sian Damon	David Price	Chris Wray
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Mountain and Marsh

Liz Blacker	Cheryl Christofferson	Rose Llewellyn	Jennifer Richardson
Jan Sainsbury			

Mynydd Bedwellte

Gerald Gardner	Mark Gwynne	Peter Harrington	Allyson Jones
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Netherwent

Fay Baxter	Ian Benton	Steve Drowley	Paul Glover
Patsy Lewis	Sharon May	Beryl Pugh	Roger Williams

Newport Cathedral

Robert Cornelius	Sian King	Colin Walsh
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Newport North West

Charles Ferris	Heather Greenwood	Lucy Jones	Natasha Lake
John Lipscomb	Rachel Mitchell	Paul Phillips	

North Monmouthshire

Jessica Graham	David Hughes-Jones	Jan Maish	Karl Sage
Colin Jarrett	John Saunders		

Severn Wye

Catherine Higgs	Noreen Shaw	Hilary Hillier
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St Illtyd

Sylvia Maslen	Helen Millard	Martin Phillips
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Tredeggar Park

Chris Matthews	Sarah Mulcahy	Ashley Rogers	Paul Taylor
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The Standing Committee of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference

Pwyllgor Sefydlog Cynhadledd Esgobaethol Mynwy

Membership 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2025

Ex-officio: The Bishop; The Dean; The Chancellor; The Archdeacon of Newport; The Archdeacon of Monmouth; The Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys; The Registrar; The DBF Chair.

Clerical: Revd Canon John Connell; Revd Kevin Hasler (to November 2023); Revd James Henley; Revd Canon Rebecca Stevens; Revd Canon Andrew Lightbown; Revd Hilary Prest; Revd Lea Ryder (from December 2023).

Laity: Phillipa Dixey; Robert Evans; Paul Glover; Ian Loynd; David Hughes-Jones; Cathryn Brooker; Andrea Thomas (from May 2023); Sian Harvey (from May 2023).

Secretary: Isabel Thompson

Meetings in 2023

The Standing Committee met on four occasions (February, May, September, and December) in 2023. The following report outlines some of the key items on the agendas of those meetings.

Diocesan Vision and Strategy

Discussions over the implementation of the diocesan vision and strategy were key agenda items for the Standing Committee during 2023. The committee received regular updates on Faith in our Future Planning from Archdeacon Ian Rees. The committee were informed that the aim for 2023 was for sessions to be run in all MAs to support MAs to live out the diocesan vision in a way that was right for their context, to reach out into their communities and think about further opportunities for development and growth.

Ministry Area Networks

Following the final commissioning services in January 2023, networks were established for key lay roles in our ministry areas, these roles are MA Wardens, MA Treasurers, MA Lay Co-Chairs, MA Property Leads and MA Safeguarding Officers. The Standing Committee received feedback from all the network meetings that were established as important opportunities for two-way communication. The committee were informed that attendance at these networks was good, and members of Standing Committee provided valuable guidance on ways that these networks could be continuously improved.

Diocesan Conferences 2023

There were two diocesan Conferences in 2023, and the Standing Committee played an active role in their organisation. The Standing Committee brought two motions to the Spring Conference in 2023.

The first motion proposed amendments be made to articles 30, 31 and 33 of the Diocesan Constitution to include the Cathedral in the Ministry Share Scheme and the Exceptional Support for Ministry Share and also to allow the Cathedral to nominate clergy and laity for election to Provincial and Diocesan bodies. This was required as a result of the transition to Ministry Area.

The second motion was to enable any elections to be conducted using an electronic voting system and that this provision is added to article 33 of the Constitution of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference.

The Standing Committee set the theme of 'Welcome' for the October Diocesan Conference and the committee agreed that this should be presented in a way that was engaging and interactive.

The Standing Committee took three motions to Conference in October 2023. Firstly, to approve the Monmouth Diocesan Environmental Policy. Secondly to renew the formal relationship with Diocese of the Highveld for a further 5 years. And thirdly to agree to amend article 20 of the Constitution of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference to allow for meetings of the Diocesan Conference to be held in various formats, including physical in-person meeting, online through video conferencing or hybrid.

In its September meeting, Standing Committee also agreed to hold the Autumn conference in 2024 later than usual, and to push the back date into November. This is because the deadline for the AVMs and Deanery Conferences have been pushed back, and a later Diocesan Conference would allow the same time period for MAs to put forward nominations for the elections at Conference.

Evangelism Fund

Throughout 2023 the Standing Committee were kept informed of the proposals for the Evangelism Bid by Archdeacon Stella Bailey. The proposal was formally approved at the meeting in May 2023 so that it could be submitted to the CinW Evangelism Fund Committee.

Standing Committee were informed in its meeting in December that the proposal had been presented to the Committee and the team were working on a few amendments. The team were hopeful of a positive result, and the proposal was formally approved in January 2024.

Diocesan Board of Finance

Bwrdd Cyllid Esgobaethol

Due to length, this report is available to download from the Monmouth Diocesan website.

If you would like a paper copy of the report, please contact the Monmouth Diocesan Office by phone (01633 267490) or by email (admin.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk) and we will be pleased to send you a copy by post.

Monmouth Diocesan Parsonage Board

Bwrdd Persondai Esgobaethol Mynwy

The Diocesan Parsonage Board oversees the work of the Diocesan Parsonage Inspector, Mr Garry Reeder, in managing the clergy houses in the Diocese.

The membership of the Parsonage Board for 2023 can be found on the front page of the DBF Trustees' report in this pack.

Activities in 2023

Parsonage inspections - 17 completed, of which 9 were vacancies.

At the end of 2023, the Parsonage Board was responsible for a total of 78 houses. 65 houses were available for clergy, of which 13 were vacant and held available for new appointments. 13 houses were available for letting of which 2 were vacant.

Seven houses had been identified as surplus to requirements and available for disposal. Sales were completed on houses in Abersychan, Cwm and Llangybi and purchases completed in Pwllmeyric and Usk. The purchases have been made as replacements, to better locate the house in a Ministry Area or to help improve the quality and condition of the housing portfolio.



Irwyn, Usk



Peveril, Pwllmeyric

Repairs fund (DBF total contribution) for the year was £408,736 and was expended. The total expenditure for the year, including improvements, was £667,353.

Four boiler replacements were completed, as part of planned works to help improve energy efficiency. Nineteen external painting projects were completed. Much of the work was directed to vacant houses with the expectation that many would be re-occupied during 2024.

At the end of 2023, the Parsonage Board had two clergy and two lay member vacancies.

Activities in 2024 (to end of September)

Parsonage inspections - 19 completed to date, of which 4 have been vacancies. There are no pending inspections, with Quinquennial inspections up to date.

The Parsonage Board has control of 77 houses. Currently 65 houses are available for clergy, of which it is expected only 7 will be vacant at the time of the Conference – the vacant houses are being held available for new appointments.

12 houses are available for letting of which only one is empty. 4 sales have completed (Gwernesney, Llanwern, Oakdale and St. Teilo) with a further 3 houses identified for disposal. One purchase has been completed in Abergavenny.

Repairs fund (DBF contribution) for the year is £424,375 and all is planned to be expended. The total expenditure for the year, including improvements, is expected to be around £700,000.

Only one boiler replacement has been completed and that as part of a move to renewable heating and energy. External painting projects have been restricted by poor weather and only 3 completed to date; others are planned to but are heavily dependent on fair weather during the autumn.

Projects to help in The Church In Wales Carbon Net Zero aspirations have started with one project including solar PV and air-source heating, and 4 projects of solar PV. The feedback on completed projects suggests that energy use has been substantially reduced, although this will vary through the seasons. Further work will be undertaken to attempt to understand the impact on carbon emissions and the bills received by occupiers.

Monmouth Diocesan Board of Nomination

Bwrdd Enwebu Esgobaethol Mynwy

Membership 1st January 2022 to December 31st 2025

Ex-officio: The Bishop; The Archdeacon of Newport; The Archdeacon of Monmouth; The Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys.

Clerical: Revd Canon John Connell; Revd Justin Groves; Revd Canon Jeremy Harris; Revd Canon Mark Owen
Laity: Paulette Brown; Neville Crump; Philippa Dixey; Susan Beryl Fergusson; Melville Friend; Edwina Samuel; Mark Saunders-Gwyne; Terrie (Therese) Smith

Secretary: Clare King-Smith

Report for 2023

The board met three times in 2023, in May, September and December. They considered appointments for Mountain and Marsh, Mid-Torfaen and Heart of Monmouthshire and, following interviews, appointments were made. The board also discussed the vacancy in Netherwent and although no appointment was made in 2023 one was made in 2024.

Report from the Diocesan Education Team

Adroddiad y Tîm Addysg Esgobaethol

In 2023 the Education team comprised of Beccie Morteo, Head of Education and Deborah Griffiths, School Support Officer who worked across both Llandaff and Monmouth Diocese.

The team continues to provide advice with regards to statutory responsibilities around areas such as – admissions, appeals and CRAMP, governing body policies and procedures including appointment of foundation governors, professional development and Curriculum updates. Headteacher meetings take place termly either face to face or online. Visits to schools are on request with the aim of visiting each school at least once a year.

An Education Committee has now been established to monitor and develop the work of the education team. This is chaired by Directors of Mission from each diocese and consists of Headteachers, clergy and lay representatives.

We continue to work closely with schools of sanctuary and saw another school in Monmouth diocese recognised this year. We have supported schools to engage with the Archbishop Young Leaders project and worked alongside colleagues at Christian Aid to develop the Global Neighbours Cymru project. These three projects will be the main focus on the Church in Wales education team over the next few years. Alongside colleagues we have developed the curriculum guidance section on the Church in Wales website for all schools to access in order to ensure they meet requirements.

We have supported clergy and foundation governors through training sessions on the curriculum, prayer spaces and a taster session of Godly play. Following this session a Godly play three-day training event took place in St Padarn's. One of our schools was part of this and will now support other schools who are interested in Godly play approaches.

Two Monmouth schools have worked with us on a national Religion, Values and Ethics research network, the results of which will be published on the Church in Wales website.

We have secured additional Welsh Government funding for a number of buildings projects including an urgent roof replacement and repairs to windows. This is alongside the CRAMP grant which has been distributed to schools.

We accessed additional funding to run a play on the life story of Bishop William Morgan in Newport Cathedral. The event was open to all Monmouth schools and included a travel grant. A welcome Eucharist for Headteachers and two leavers services were also held in the Cathedral. As part of the leavers service we provided all schools with a three-month trial subscription to Hymnpact, a music resource developed by the Royal College of Church Music.



Year Six Leavers' Services

Monmouth Diocesan Conference

21st October 2023

St Teilo's High School

Minutes of the Meeting

Saturday 21st October

Welcome and Worship

The President of Conference, The Right Reverend Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth, welcomed members and observers to the virtual Diocesan Conference.

The opening worship was led by Cwmbran Ministry Area.

Opening Address – President of the Conference

The Right Reverend Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth

“Diolch yn fawr to the Cwmbran MA for that opening act of worship and Croeso pawb, welcome to our Diocesan Conference. The theme of the conference, just in case it has passed your notice, is welcome and there will be opportunity later in the conference to discuss the practicalities of how we might become a church that is truly welcoming.

For my part, I want to explore the notion of welcome with you from three perspectives. What is it. Why do it. And how does it look.

Some of you may have heard of, or even been involved in, Back to Church Sunday. It began in the States in 2009 and was an initiative that designated the third Sunday in September as a day when churches would focus on inviting people to come back to church. The emphasis was on those who had been church goers, had perhaps even been brought up to go to church, but who had lapsed over the years for one reason or another. Special resources were made available; banners, posters, sermon outlines, tips for attracting people back into the fold.

I remember thinking at the time, when it reached the UK and became ‘a thing’ to do, that for all the good intentions that lay behind it, it wasn’t likely to have any lasting impact. Welcoming people into, or back to church, has to be more than a one-off event, however good, exciting or attractive that one event is. Welcome has to be part of the mindset of a church community, an intrinsic part of its culture if it’s going to feel authentic to those who dare to step through our doors. It has to be part of our DNA and not just a special effort on special occasions.

St Paul in his letter to the church in Rome (Romans 15:7) urges the Christian community to ‘welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.’ Our welcome to others has to be an extension of God’s welcome to us - and we know what that feels like. George Herbert’s well known poem sums it up beautifully and movingly.

‘Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin.’ The poem explores what it feels like when you’re invited by the God who is Love to come and share at his table when you feel wretched,

unworthy, ashamed. Love not only invites, but draws near, speaks tenderly, reassures and reminds us that love has borne the blame and overcome all our unworthiness and sin. This is our story; of a God whose love heals and transforms us as he invites us ever more deeply into relationship with him. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you. Our invitation to others must mirror God's invitation to all of us. The welcome we offer is not to be limited or partial, not with strings attached, not 'you're welcome as long as you fit in with how it is here'. Rather, 'come and join us, as we ourselves seek to join with God in Christ.'

It would be very easy, and very understandable, to want to become a more welcoming church just so that our numbers increase. But that should not be our primary motivation. Because if it is, then our welcome is likely to come across as inauthentic and false. We welcome the stranger, the newcomer, because in doing so we are welcoming Christ himself.

I never cease to be challenged by the parable towards the end of St Matthew's gospel about the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-40). Those who are welcomed into the kingdom by the Son of Man are not those who attend public worship regularly or know their bibles or pray faithfully every day. It's those who are kind and generous and compassionate to those in need; it's those who welcome the stranger. And what is very clearly stated is that 'just as you did it to the least of these...you did it to me.'

When she was asked how she managed to work, day by day in the filth and squalor of what was then Calcutta, tending the sick, the dying, and the maimed lying in the streets amidst the flies and the stench, Mother Theresa famously said 'I treat them all as if I was treating Jesus.' In the light of Matthew's parable, that's exactly what she was doing, and it's what we are called to do; at the doors and gates of our church buildings, if not in the streets of our towns and city. To see all those who come to us as Jesus himself. To serve all those who come as if we were serving the one who came to show us what it means to serve one another. To share what we know of the love of God in what we say and what we do, and thereby be a blessing to others.

But this is not all one way. We also have to recognize that they can be a blessing to us, a gift from God, if we can accept them for who they are and are willing to receive what they have to give.

When I was a Higher Education Chaplain, I occasionally used to sit in on the History of Art course. One day, a woman turned up to the class. Her appearance caused a bit of a stir, especially when we realized that she was to give the lecture. She was dressed in stiletto shoes and fishnet tights. She had a very short, tight-fitting skirt and a similarly tight and low-slung top. She was heavily made-up and her hair was long and quite wild. For all the world, she looked like a 'lady of the night.'

After the first session and the mid-morning break, she returned, hardly recognizable and every inch what you would expect a lecturer to look like. We spent the second session exploring attitudes, prejudices and how we make assumptions about people based on their appearance. I can't remember anything about the lecture, but I learnt a lot about myself that day.

It's said that we make judgements about people within seconds of first seeing them and our subsequent behaviour towards them is influenced as a result. If we want to be truly welcoming to anyone who turns up at our doors, then we not only need to accept them as they are, we need to take care to treat them as children of God, whatever they look like and however they present.

John Hull was a former professor of practical theology at Queen's Birmingham and wrote extensively about his experience of being blind. 'People would speak about me to others as if I wasn't there he said, just because I was blind. They would ask others what I wanted – even, on one occasion, asking my wife if I wanted to be taken up to the communion rail – rather than asking me myself. So often, in public situations, it was the 'does he take sugar' syndrome, as if I was stupid or deaf just because I used a white stick.'

To be a truly welcoming church means creating a space so that newcomers, strangers, seekers can feel and know that they belong. It means embracing what they bring, receiving what they have to share and being prepared to change and be changed by their presence amongst us. The Church in Wales has a new bishop of St David's and his presence on the Bench will change the dynamic we have created between us. It will disrupt, and rightly so, the ways we do things and the things we do. It will require the rest of us not just to welcome him with words, but accommodate him and make space for him such that he can take his place amongst us and truly belong.

As we explore the practicalities of welcome later this morning, let's not forget the fundamental reason for seeking to be a welcoming church.

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for all are equally loved and redeemed in the sight of God, all are welcome to sit and eat in his house, at his table. God welcomes stranger as well as friend into the body of Christ."

Business of the Diocesan Conference 2023

1. Attendance and Apologies	<p>The 2023 Diocesan Conference was held at St Teilos High School on 21st October 2023.</p> <p>124 members of the diocese attended (from the total membership of 175). There were 54 clerical members (from a total membership of 73), 70 lay members (from a total membership of 102), 8 diocesan staff and 13 observers were present.</p> <p>Apologies were received from 9 clerics and 18 lay members.</p>
2. Matters Arising or Conflicts of Interest	<p>There were no matters arising or declarations of conflict of interest declared prior to Conference Business.</p>
3. Minutes October 2022 and March 2023	<p>The minutes for the previous Diocesan Conference and the Spring Conference were included in the report and were accepted as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Both sets of minutes were signed by the President.</p>
4. Diocesan Election Results	<p>The Bishop thanked all those who took part in the online elections during the week leading up to Conference. She announced the results:</p> <p>The two clerics elected to Governing Body were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reverend Philip Averay 2. Reverend Matt Davis <p>The four lay people elected to Governing Body were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nick Cooke 2. Hannah Rowan 3. David Slocombe 4. Elizabeth Crawford <p>The cleric elected to the Representative Body was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Venerable Ian Rees <p>The lay person elected to the Representative Body was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nicola Gibbons

	<p>The Bishop informed Conference that the full election results, including the supplemental lists, would be sent to Conference members next week.</p> <p>The membership list of Conference was included in the report and as part of the online election process, members were asked to approve the list. No amendments were made and the Bishop signed the membership register as accurate.</p> <p>73 - Clergy 94 - Lay elected by ministry areas 3 - Bishop's nominees 5 - Ex-officio</p>
5. Report of Standing Committee	<p>The Archdeacon of Newport, Ven Jonathan Williams presented the report for the Standing Committee – see Conference Report for reference.</p> <p>No questions were received and the vote to accept the report was unanimously carried.</p>
6. Report of the DBF	<p>Mr Peter Lea, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, presented the DBF report – see Conference Report for reference.</p> <p>This report included three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actual outcome for 2022 • The likely outcome for 2023 • The forecast for 2024 <p>Peter went on to say: “2022 began with the first quarter when the higher level of share rebate at 10% was applied. This was the last of the extra covid rebate, since then rebate has returned to its more usual 5% provided that payments are made by standing order and on time. You have done wonderfully well in keeping share payments going - thank you so much for all the hard work and effort that has taken.”</p> <p>He then turned to the accounts: “Income was £3,111k. This was less than 2021 but there was no extra covid support from the Representative Body, which there had been in 2021. However, there was the first part of the extra support for all dioceses, announced by the Archbishop this time last year. Share collection held up extremely well and was only £32k less than 2021. The board is so grateful to you all for the hard work which we know it took to manage that.”</p> <p>Looking at expenditure: “This was £2,640k. it included the last part of covid grants to parishes and ministry areas. In addition, help was given via the ministry share support fund. Ministry costs were again below budget because it was not possible to fill the vacancies as quickly as was hoped. Administration costs were down by £9k. You can see that this is kept to a bare minimum, but our splendid team coped with all the challenges thrown at them.”</p> <p>On to investments: “It was not a good year following the war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis. They dropped in value by £355k. Putting all this together there was an</p>

operating surplus of £470k and an overall surplus of £114k. I hope that you will agree that this was a satisfactory outcome. As I mentioned last year, £400k of that operating surplus has been earmarked as the board's contribution towards the evangelism fund bid. The match funding which hopefully comes from a successful bid will bring in far more than £400k towards the mission and ministry of the diocese.

The full accounts for the board of finance have been on the diocesan website since they were approved and are available for whoever wants to read them. They show that the total reserves of the board at the end of 2022 were £5,368k. £558k of those were restricted, which means they can only be used for set purposes rather than available for general use.

Those remaining funds are unrestricted or designated and can be used as the board sees fit to further the funding of ministry and mission in this diocese."

Peter looked at this year, 2023:

"As I mentioned last year, a breakeven operating budget was set. Share collection for quarters 1 and 2 have been at 96% of budget and thanks again for that. Investment income has been ahead of budget. Expenditure, whilst within budget, has been very close to it as all those vacancies which we have had for so long have been filled. There is a surplus on the first half year but it is expected that this will be reduced by the end of the year, as some spending does not happen evenly across the year but will be higher in the second half."

He then turned to next year, 2024:

"Last month the board set a budget which was effectively break even for next year. It again has a full complement of stipendiary clergy. Having had two years where overall share levels have been reduced, there will be an increase next year but, before you get too worried, the rate of increase is 2%. This in line with the forecast which the board made to the Representative Body last year, as part of the information given to secure the additional funding.

Support will again be available for ministry areas who have major financial issues. This support includes not only grant aid, but also working with them to try and alleviate the problems faced.

The extra funding from the Representative Body is being used to directly help ministry areas. After consulting with ministry area leaders and treasurers, it has been decided that this is partly in the form of admin and finance support assistants and there will be one for each Archdeaconry. Other help will be in the formation of property plans for ministry areas, creation of websites and social media presence for ministry areas and assistance with accessing grants and fund raising to support ministry area projects and property."

Peter went on to thank the diocesan office team, saying, "I want to say an enormous thank you to the team of Izzy, Bethan, Zoe, Libby, Deb, Clare, Beccie, Rachel, Emily, Garry and Gillian for the way that they are always prepared to go the extra mile to meet the challenges that come along."

He concluded:

"I would like to thank all the members of the executive for their work and

	<p>expertise in the year. There have been some changes recently with the retirement of Reverend Canon Mark Owen and Reverend Kevin Hasler and two long standing lay members, Sarah Mulcahy and Sandy Blair. Thank you so much to all of them for what they have done. I do have to mention that Sandy has been a member of the board since 2007, was Chair from then until 2015 and then took over as Parsonage Board Chair. What a marvellous record of service! Sadly, he is not here today and he told me that this is the first Conference which he has missed in 16 years. Thanks Sandy for all that you have done.</p> <p>It is not all departures, as we are welcoming a number of new members who will carry on the baton and thanks to them for offering their skills.</p> <p>There has been a change of Vice Chair. Paulette Brown has stepped down but is staying on the board. Her place is being taken by Louise Minford. Paulette has been an incredibly supportive Vice Chair and has brought so much wisdom to the board's deliberations, especially when the days were darkest. She also has shown great pastoral care for the team."</p> <p>Peter then invited Paulette up to the stage, where Bishop Cherry gave her a bouquet of flowers as a thank you.</p> <p>No questions were received and the vote to accept the report was unanimously carried.</p>
7.. Acceptance of Other Reports	<p>The reports of the Parsonage Board, the Board of Nomination and the Education Team were available as part of the Conference Report.</p> <p>Bishop Cherry proposed all reports be accepted en bloc. Seconded by Archdeacon Stella Bailey.</p> <p>All voted in favour.</p>
8. Motions	<p><u>Motion A</u> Archdeacon Stella Bailey proposed the motion:</p> <p>"This Conference agrees to approve the Monmouth Diocesan Environmental Policy, as set out on the attached paper."</p> <p>Reverend Canon Andrew Lightbown seconded the motion.</p> <p>Archdeacon Stella Bailey explained that within the diocesan vision, care of God's creation is one of the branches. It's also a focus of the diocesan environmental group. She emphasised that we're trying to work towards not just churches becoming Eco Churches but the diocese becoming an Eco Diocese. It's about changing culture. We want to work towards 60% of our churches having received the award and she went on to explain that we need an environmental policy to achieve the bronze award. It's modelled on the policy from Eco Church which has been adapted for us.</p> <p>There were no questions. Reverend Catherine Haynes spoke on this motion, explaining how important it is to support this.</p> <p>Conference members voted on this motion.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>

Motion B

Bishop Cherry proposed the motion:

“In recognising the mutual benefit of our companion relationship with the Diocese of the Highveld, the Diocesan Conference agrees to renew the formal relationship for a further 5 years.”

Helen Millard seconded the proposal.

Bishop Cherry explained that the link is much, much more than simply sending money for good projects. We are not interested in perpetuating a rather colonial and patronising attitude towards a poorer church in the developing world. As the motion suggests, the purpose of the link was, and still is, to partner together in the work of living and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we aim to support and strengthen the work of the church across two very different continents and in very different cultures; learning from one another, growing together in friendship and love, and deepening our faith in the one God who calls us all.

There were no questions. Dean Ian Black spoke on this motion, explaining how important it is to support this.

Conference members voted on this motion.

The motion is passed.

Motion C

Archdeacon Jonathan Williams proposed the motion:

“This Conference agrees to the amendments to Article Nine of the Constitution of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference, as set out in the schedule below, to allow the Diocesan Standing Committee to determine the number of lay members of Conference elected by each Ministry Area and the Cathedral.”

Peter Lea seconded the proposal.

Archdeacon Jonathan explained that the Diocesan Constitution currently links membership of the Conference for each ministry area to average Sunday attendance figures. The Covid pandemic severely impacted our ability to collect worship statistics and we do not currently have reliable up to date numbers. We also no longer link the allocation of Ministry Share to average Sunday attendance. The Conference has to have more lay members than clerical, so adjustments have to be made ahead of each triennial election. By transferring the decision to the Diocesan Standing Committee, it will give greater flexibility in assessing how many laity need to be elected closer to the time of election. The amendments will also allow for the Cathedral to have an allocation of members.

Archdeacon Jonathan went on to say that this motion also includes one small amendment, which is to change the date by which the Annual Vestry

	<p>Meetings must be held, from 30th April to 30th June. This brings the Diocesan Constitution into line with a recent amendment to the Church in Wales Constitution, which allows more time for ministry areas to prepare their annual report and accounts.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>Conference members voted on this motion.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p> <p><u>Motion D</u> Bob Evans proposed the motion:</p> <p>“This Conference agrees to the amendments to Article Twenty of the Constitution of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference, as set out in the schedule below, to allow for meetings of the Diocesan Conference to be held in various formats.</p> <p>Schedule: Article Twenty - The Date and Location Format of Meetings A Meeting may be in any of the following formats: (a) a physical meeting; (b) a video conference, an internet video facility or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous visual and audio participation; (c) a telephone conferencing or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous audio participation; (d) a combination of the above provided that each attendee is able to speak to and be heard by each of the other attendees.</p> <p>Subject to Article Seventeen, the date and place format of all meetings of the conference shall be determined by the President of the conference, by the advice and with the consent of its Standing Committee.”</p> <p>Bob explained that this amendment incorporates into our Constitution changes made to the Constitution of the Church in Wales. It allows for meetings of Conference to be held in various formats and will enable them to be held in an appropriate manner depending on the circumstances at the time.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>Conference members voted on this motion.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
9. Diocesan Restructuring Update	<p>Archdeacon Jonathan explained that from the consultation regarding the creation of the Diocesan Council, the feedback was really positive. We were hoping to come to this Conference with a motion to approve, however we’ve recognised there is more work to do for the DBF and the DT to get everything in order before we can do that. We have pushed the dates back to the end of 2024, which means the DBF doesn’t have to make a change mid-way through an accounting year. One of the things we’ve looked at through this process is whether we convert the DBF to a CIO, but that has to be the decision of the trustees of those bodies.</p>

	<p>Conference were shown two slides, the first showing the current structure of diocesan committees/groups and the second showing the proposal incorporating the diocesan council.</p> <p>When questions were invited from conference members, Reverend Sally Ingle-Gillis referred back to the vote on Motion C, where Standing Committee had been given the authority to determine how many conference delegates each ministry area has. She asked whether the merging of SC into the new Diocesan Council meant that the previous vote has just given the newly proposed merged body the power to determine conference delegates. Jonathan responded to the question by saying that the new structure will still meet at subcommittees and that the power would be retained with the part of the Diocesan Council that echoes the Standing Committee.</p>
10. Written Questions	No written questions were received in advance of Conference.
11. Next Meeting	<p>The date of our next Conference is Tuesday 30th April, 7-9pm. Bishop Cherry explained that this will be a special Conference to vote on the diocesan restructuring you've heard about this morning. Before this, there will be opportunities to find out more and ask questions.</p> <p>The Bishop went on to say that because of changes made at the recent Governing Body meeting regarding dates of AVMs, our Diocesan Conference which is normally in October will need to be pushed back. Standing Committee have agreed that Conference will be moved to the third Saturday in November from next year.</p> <p>Diocesan Conference 2024 will be held on Saturday 16th November.</p>

End of Conference Business

Break

Welcome Presentation

Attendees took part in a Welcome Presentation lead by Archdeacon Ian and Izzy Thompson.

Closing Remarks – The Right Reverend Cherry Vann

The Bishop thanked the team for leading everyone in an engaging and stimulating session on welcome. She extended a big thank you to Ian Loynd and St Teilo's for hosting everyone so beautifully, and to all stall holders for coming for the day and sharing their resources. The Bishop went on to thank the diocesan team for planning and organising this event. It was Conference members who were given the final thanks, noting that there was a real buzz about the day, with attendees engaging so positively and energetically.

Closing Prayer – The Right Reverend Cherry Vann

End of Conference.

Diocesan Conference Election Results 2023

Election Results for the Governing Body of the Church in Wales (Clergy)

- 2 places -

Elected	Revd Philip Averay	Revd Matt Davis
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Supplemental List	3) Revd Sarah Rosser 4) Revd Ruth Rowan 5) Revd Rosemary Hill
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Election Results for the Governing Body of the Church in Wales (Lay)

- 4 places -

Elected	Nick Cooke David Slocombe	Hannah Rowan Elizabeth Crawford
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Supplemental List	5) Ian Benton 6) Ken Hunt
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Election Results for the Representative Body of the Church in Wales (Clergy)

- 1 place -

Elected	The Venerable Ian Rees
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Supplemental List	2) The Venerable Jonathan Williams 3) Revd James Henley 4) Revd Liz Houghton
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Election Results for the Representative Body of the Church in Wales (Lay)

- 1 place -

Elected	Nicola Gibbons
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Supplemental List	2) Ian Benton
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The Constitution of the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of Monmouth, adopted 13.10.01

Appendix One – Standing Orders

1. All meetings of the Conference shall open and close with prayer.
2. All notices of motion shall be received by the secretary not less than twenty-one days before the annual meeting and if allowed by the President shall be placed on the agenda paper. Any business may be brought forward at the annual general meeting by the President or with his consent.
3. The business to be transacted at the annual meeting shall be included on the agenda paper which shall be sent to all members of conference at least ten days before the meeting.
4. All motions and amendments shall be in writing, signed by the mover. Unless given to the secretary prior to the meeting, two copies thereof must be handed in by the mover, one to the President and the other to the secretary.
5. Amendments on motions on the agenda paper of the annual meeting, sent to the secretary not later than five days before such meeting, shall take precedence of all other amendments, except motions of adjournment, or of the previous question.
6. No amendment on an amendment shall be in order unless when an amendment shall have become a substantive motion.
7. A motion from the floor for the suspension of standing orders shall not be in order unless a majority of the members present rise in support.
8. (i) A motion which is set out in full on the agenda paper or its accompanying papers need not be read before being put, unless the President, or ten members (the latter signifying their intention by rising in their places), so require.
(ii) All other motions or amendments shall be read immediately before the vote thereon is taken.
9. Any member may move the previous question, and if this is carried, the next business shall be immediately proceeded with.
10. Speeches shall not exceed five minutes with the exception of those made by the mover and seconder of a resolution, who shall be allowed ten minutes each. An amendment is not a resolution within the meaning of this order. The President may with the leave of the meeting extend the time for a speech.
11. No member shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same question, except in explanation, or to order, provided that the mover of any resolution not being an amendment shall be allowed the liberty of reply.
12. A member shall address the conference only from a position which is within range of a microphone and shall give his or her name, office (if any) and the parish or benefice from which he or she comes.
13. If, during a debate, thirty members rise in their places and demand that a vote be now taken, the President shall put that question to the meeting for a decision by show of hands. If the meeting decides such question in the affirmative, a vote shall thereupon be taken on the question before the meeting provided that before such vote is taken the mover of a resolution, not being an amendment, shall be allowed the liberty of reply.
14. Whenever the President rises during a debate, any member speaking or offering to speak shall immediately sit down.
15. When the President shall have taken the chair, no member shall continue standing up, except when addressing the chair.
16. If any member after due warning persists in being out of order or in speaking off the question, the President shall forthwith move that the said member be no longer heard. If such motion be carried and be disregarded by the said member, the President may suspend the member or at his discretion suspend the sitting of the conference.
17. *When a division is called, tellers of both orders of clergy and laity shall be appointed*



Faith in our Future

Diocese of Monmouth
Esgobaeth Mynwy