



## ARCHBISHOP'S COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Archbishop's Council held on Tuesday 16 January 2024 at St Paul's Parish Centre, CT1 1NH and Microsoft Team

<b>Present</b>	Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Chair)	<i>(Bishop of Dover)</i>
	Ven Darren Miller	<i>(Archdeacon of Ashford)</i>
	Ven Will Adam	<i>(Archdeacon of Canterbury)</i>
	Ven Andrew Sewell	<i>(Archdeacon of Maidstone)</i>
	Ven Stephen Taylor	<i>(Diocesan Secretary)</i>
	Mr Tony Richter	<i>(Deputy Chair of the Finance &amp; Assets Committee)</i>
	Mr John Moss	<i>(Chair of the Board of Education)</i>
	Revd Andy Bawtree	<i>(Chair of the House of Clergy)</i>
	Mrs Miranda Ford	<i>(Chair of the House of Laity)</i>
	Mr John Morrison	<i>(Reader, Canterbury Deanery)</i>
	Ms Amanda Boucherat	<i>(Co-Chair Mission &amp; Ministry, Reculver Deanery)</i>
	Revd Gareth Dickinson	<i>(Vicar, Maidstone St Luke and Area Dean, Maidstone)</i>
	Mr Graham Codling	<i>(Lay Chair, Weald Deanery)</i>
<b>In Attendance</b>	Revd Richard Braddy	<i>(Chaplain to the Bishop of Dover)</i>
	Mrs Orla Garratt	<i>(Head of Media and Engagement)</i>
	Mr Quentin Roper	<i>(Director of Education)</i>
	Ms Natalia Olszewska	<i>(Director of Finance)</i>
	Mr Jonathan Arnold	<i>(Director of Communities &amp; Partnership)</i>
	Mrs Sara Endicott-Clarke	<i>(Head of Finance)</i>
	Mr Colin Evans	<i>(Strategic Programme Manager)</i>
	Mrs Jo Manser	<i>(EA to the Diocesan Secretary)</i>

### 1. **OPENING PRAYERS**

+Rose opened the meeting with a prayer.

### 2. **APOLOGIES AND NOTICES**

Apologies received from Jeremy Worthen, Estella Last and Neville Emslie.

+Rose welcomed Natalia Olszewska, our new Director of Finance, and Sara Endicott-Clarke, new to her role as Head of Finance. ST advised that Peter Wyllie having come to the end of his first three year term as Chair of the Finance and Assets Committee made the decision not to stand for another three year term and has resigned with immediate effect. Tony Richter, Deputy Chair, has agreed to take on the role of Interim Chair until a suitable replacement has been appointed. Finally, +Rose welcomed Nick Shepherd, Senior Vision & Strategy Consultant, Church Commissioners.

### 3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None Declared.

#### **4. INTRODUCITON AND OVERVIEW OF RESOURCING CHURCH AND CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY**

CE referred to the three documents relating to the SMMIB funding request he had shared prior to the meeting. He mentioned that these were first drafts and would be amended prior to submission on 29 January subject to the Archbishop's Council approval.

He explained that since the last funding request we have been exploring partnerships in Margate, Maidstone and Ashford. We have noted an emerging partnership with St Luke's and St Faith's, Maidstone. In the Maidstone Deanery plan there is a third plant on the cards.

CE has set out the clear rationale on why we proposing to do this and that it is supporting our growth targets. There are two main projects and we are setting the scene for an application for an Ashford plant. The Ashford plant is at a very early stage but we are including it in our submission as we need the national church to know where we think it will be. DM commented that the request had come from Ashford, the rector knows about this, there is so much to do that's why it's not been taken any further and may not come off.

NS gave some clarity on the process, Ashford is included in the overall strategy, the Church Commissioners will be considering the concrete proposals for Maidstone and Margate, Ashford will be noted but it won't be formally considered as a funding proposal.

Overseeing the projects will be a back-office role, these two areas require a lot of investment, a lot of monitoring and review. This person will work closely with Steve and the Ministry Team.

DM commented that we need to have an inward facing document to our parishes, church planting is part of the DNA of the Church of England. This is not just a bolt on, something we are all about. We are looking for a particular version, everybody in their own way can engage in, church planting in a broader initiative, it is doable and should be done.

AB delighted this on the table, we are not being ambitious enough, there is working being done on Anglo catholic church planting, excited about moving that forward.

GD exciting to see will inspire other deaneries, agrees with AB, will grow across the diocese.

+Rose underlined the point DM made about not having the perception that any one particular group has the monopoly around church planting.

The Archbishop's Council were asked to vote on this, CE proposed, AS seconded. All in favour, no abstentions.

#### **5. PROPOSALS FOR MARGATE**

CE explained that Margate is made up of 4 single parish benefices, this is a fantastic opportunity, missional opportunities. The vision is for Holy Trinity to be a resourcing church for Margate resourcing St Paul's and bring in an interim minister for St John's and All Saints. All churches are on board with the vision. The Revitalize Church Trust have recommended a minister to us, they have met with the Bishop and churchwardens and are moving forward quickly as Holy Trinity can fund as have paid their parish share. Repair and refurbishment will be required to St Paul's to catch up on their Quinquennial repairs. WA responded that this is different to other projects across the country, rather than being townwide, it is at a pace that will work with what they are happy with. Partnership with The Revitalise Trust who have a wealth of experience in establishing resource churches.

NS commended the comments and support of the Council's approval and for the hard work undertaken on this proposal. Point of reference, make sure that the enthusiasm is captured. Highlighted capacity heritage lottery funding for St John's, Margate the fee for fund raising support to include that figure in the proposal.

RB as a previous AD of Thanet, is blown away by this proposal, this is amazing thank you to everyone who has worked on it. Keen to see a social action worker, lots of social action work in Thanet. Team going into to Holy Trinity will be resourcing both churches, not sure how that will work. OG also referred to the church schools in area and that the connection has been lost with the church and the schools during vacancies. CE responded that he was looking into that.

Archbishop's Council were asked to vote on this proposal, CE proposed and AB seconded. All in favour, no abstentions.

## **6. PROPOSALS FOR NORTH MAIDSTONE**

St Faith's was in the city centre with limited space for growth. They sold the church and built a fantastic new centre which opened in July 2023, a church and community resource centre working in partnership with St Luke's effectively like a new church plant. When it opened in July it had a congregation of 20 which has grown to a congregation of 40. St Luke's has grown from a congregation of 50 to 150 with a thriving under 16 youth ministry and is partnering with St Faith's. St Luke's has a real heart to resource other churches, they have an Evangelistic heart for mission to grow to 200 without extending, supported by children's and families minister, part of our bold outcomes.

AS echoed RB, as a former AD of Maidstone he is blown away. Real work has been put into this by Steve Coneys and GD to get that chapter of that deanery working together. This proposal allows St Luke's to become a resourcing church and commends this proposal.

GD reported that they have held a joint alpha course, prayer meetings, trying to have fun together, sharing of preaching and leading, potential in that community is huge and credit to Revd Canon Arthur Houston and particularly this small congregation who have given so much in finance, time and commitment to seeking the lord and praying together. As current AD overwhelmed by what the Lord seems to be doing. In terms of Maidstone deanery this is a result of hard work and conversation journeyed together, one of next stages is St Martin's and potential there as it is in one of the highest deprived areas, Joyce and the current ignite enabler and funding coming to an end in June raises a concern, the need for the right leadership. Deanery Synod approved and gave full support in December and want to support a pioneer minister at St Martin's and Park Wood, a new and worshipping community in Ignite. How we might get continuing funding for that pioneering role, the DDO is in conversation with Jon Marlow, an additional worshipping community. Some of the church have committed some funding towards this post.

NS commented that he will touch base with CE and ST about St Martin's, always a challenge.

RB on practical question he noted that the numbers are to increase 500, the support for Margate is substantial, do they have that at Maidstone, is it there already? GD commented that he is embarking on some challenges at St Luke's, costs will be £3m but he has managed to cut it down to £400k and this is taking up a lot of GD's time. Funding, grant applications, St Luke's are light on the right skill set.

+Rose asked for NS to pass onto the Church Commissioners, she spent a significant part of her parish ministry fund raising. No priest should be doing this and certainly not more than once, it does take away from the bread and butter of what we are about.

CE in respect of the Teams, there will be an Operations Manager of some description, Facilities Manager and a Youth Minister, Children's and Families Minister. GD starting from a base of 150, HT starting from a lot lower than that.

NS added that one of the challenges of having quite a few projects is sustainability, the high number of staff teams is quite challenging, some are now having to pare down teams. Keep an eye on the longer sustainability.

Archbishop's Council were asked to vote on this proposal. JMorrison proposed and MF seconded. All in favour, no abstentions

7. **AOB**

+Rose referred to 2024 meeting dates to note for the diary.

DM closed the meeting with a prayer.