

CARLISLE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

Minutes of a Meeting of the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance, held at Christ Church, Penrith on Tuesday 14th June 2022

Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Mr Jim Johnson, introduced the meeting. He set out a number of areas where the Board was actively supporting the Diocesan Vision and plans for mission. There were various outreach initiatives including Restore, the charity shop network, who had four outlets in Carlisle and one in Penrith. The Penrith outlet was in the process of moving premises. Restore had a new, energetic board with ambition to support their local communities and people in need. He hoped that the initiative would expand more widely in the diocese as opportunities arose.

Rydal Hall was fully open and trading after a tough year of Covid restrictions. The pandemic VAT relief had come off and furlough had ended for staff. There were ongoing difficulties, as with all hospitality and catering outlets, in getting staff and keeping them, but Rydal Hall was coping well. He was hopeful that Rydal would be able at least to break even in the coming year, and if not, then very shortly after. There were some substantial work to do in terms of building repairs and improvements. These would happen over time, but the expectation was that Rydal would generate the necessary funds to be able to do them.

Derek Hurton, Ric Jaques, and his team continued to work to introduce a new approach to the Parish Offer. It worked on the basis of discussions among the churches in a Mission Community and with Diocesan representatives about their plans for mission, the ministry required to achieve those plans, and the financial resources needed to fund the ministry. The hope was that the end product of those discussions there would be a three-year agreement between a Mission Community and the Diocese about the level of ministry to be provided and the Offer to be made towards its costs.

In support of this the Board continued to dispose of underperforming or surplus assets and increase investment returns so that funds were available to invest in and support mission where it was needed but could not be funded by the local churches.

These approaches were a strategic response to the current situation and the need to fund the emerging God for All vision and strategy which set out how the Diocese is going to grow, survive and thrive in the next five years.

Relatively speaking the Diocese was doing well and was in a better financial position than many other Dioceses, but the situation was still tough. The Chair passed on his gratitude and thanks to those who had made that happen.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance held on Saturday 5th March 2022 were approved.

Minutes of the Finance Committee & Questions to the Chair

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday, 19th January 2022 and Wednesday 16th March 2022 were received.