

Report from Synod Executive Committee – October 2020

Youth Genesis project:

The original budget for the Youth Genesis project will cover two years [not one as originally agreed] to give a clearer idea of the true costs and as the scope of work increases. Additional churches have now applied to be part of this project and SPAs are the point of contact for churches to express interest in taking part. Due to covid-19 this work was suspended, and Executive Committee agreed to some money being used for virtual support for young people affected by lockdown.

Risk & Safeguarding

Jan Murphy, the Synod Safeguarding officer, gave a report of the work undertaken which obviously varies each year. Compliance matters are about 30% of her time and responding to problems is 70%.

It was mentioned that all churches should have a Safeguarding coordinator to deal with any issues. Jan is working with churches to ensure that the churches in the Synod are complying with this as it is a risk to the local church and the Synod. The contact is Jan Murphy for advice and help.

Pensions consultation

The Executive Committee were called to an extraordinary meeting in January 2020 to consider questions on the issues of the recent pension consultation. The South Western Synod were the first Synod to respond and a further response to a consultation from the Pensions group was sent in September. There may be changes to URC pensions in the future and we will keep Synod informed.

Enabling Grants:

Executive Committee have approved several small and large Enabling Grants for a variety of projects.

The retirement of David Hayden from his many and varied financial responsibilities was noted with appreciation and it was agreed that planning for the future of staffing for the Synod Trust, Property and Finance was a priority.

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