

Report from Synod Executive Committee – March 2021 Synod

The work of the Executive Committee continued and met virtually throughout 2020, dealing with a wide range of issues.

Youth Genesis project:

As COVID-19 has had a huge impact on society this area of work will now focus on getting churches to think about opportunities to serve their local communities in the light of these changes. It is anticipated that the youth development work which began in 2019 will continue until mid - 2021 with Churches looking to engage in a Covid-19 response expressing an interest at Synod in March 2021.

Risk & Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an agenda item for every Executive Committee meeting so that statistics from across the Synod on which churches have adopted GP5, have a safeguarding coordinator, have engaged with training, are recruiting more safely, and have dealt with incidents in an appropriate way can be monitored.

Trustee training was undertaken which highlighted how important it is that trustees exercise their responsibilities in a consistent and rigorous way. Training for the elders/trustees of the local church is currently underway and we are grateful to Jan, our Safeguarding Officer, for initiating and organising this.

Enabling Grants:

Executive Committee have approved several small and large Enabling Grants for a variety of projects and welcome churches applying for these funds to find new and innovative ways to serve their communities.

Succession planning:

- Deputy Synod Treasurer: the search continues for this important role.
- Interviews have been held and an offer of employment has been accepted for the successor to our Property & Trust Officer, Raoul Hewitt, who retires in March 2022. There will be a lengthy period of handover to enable a transfer of knowledge.
- The vacant post of Synod Pastoral Adviser for Somerset is being advertised again.

We will be seeking some new members of this Committee during 2021 so please think about people who can offer their experience and knowledge for this vital work for the Synod.

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