

# Diocese of St Asaph



## Election of a Shadow Diocesan Property Board

### Background

The Parsonage Board, the Churches and Pastoral Committee, the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Standing Committee have all approved a proposal to amalgamate the Diocesan Parsonage Board and the Diocesan Churches and Pastoral Committee into one Diocesan Property Board. This new Board will be required to organise the maintenance, repair and improvement of parsonages, church buildings and churchyards in such a way as to free up Mission Areas to focus on mission activity. It will also keep under review the pastoral need for these assets in the diocese and advise the Bishop, the Representative Body, the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Conference accordingly.

The creation of the Diocesan Property Board requires a change to the Diocesan Constitution which has to be approved by the Diocesan Conference. In the event of the Conference approving this constitutional change, we would like to be able to move forward quickly in creating this new Board. This is because many of the property challenges facing our churches and congregations are now urgent.

It has been decided to hold elections to a Shadow Diocesan Property Board over the summer months in line with the cycle for other elections that are made by the Diocesan Conference. If the required constitutional change is approved by the Diocesan Conference, the new Board will be able to start its work this autumn. If the constitutional change is not approved, the Parsonage Board and the Churches and Pastoral Committee will continue to function under the current arrangements.

### Nomination and Election

Clerical and Lay members of the Diocesan Conference are required to elect three clerical or lay persons to serve on the Shadow Diocesan Property Board for a term of three years commencing 2017.

Nominated persons must be serving members of the St Asaph Diocesan Conference.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by clerical or lay members of the St Asaph Diocesan Conference.

Please ensure that the proposed candidate has agreed to his/her name being submitted for election before completing the nomination form.

Candidates are required to submit a completed biographical details form for the information of voters.

For further information about diocesan elections and to download nomination forms please visit the Diocesan website: <http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/life/diocesanelections/>

**The closing date for the receipt of nominations is 30 June 2017**

## **Membership**

The membership of the Board will be as follows and with an equal number of clergy and laity:

- The Archdeacons of the Diocese
- The Chair or Vice Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance
- The Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee or another member nominated by her
- Three members elected by the Diocesan Conference from its own membership
- Three members appointed by the diocesan bishop

## **Officers**

The following officers will attend Property Board meetings:

- The Head of Property for the RBCinW or his delegate
- The Diocesan Secretary
- The Diocesan Parsonages Inspector
- The Diocesan Churches Inspector
- The Diocesan Churches Conservation and Development Officer
- The Diocesan Property Administrator who will act as secretary to the Board

## **Operation**

- The Board may appoint suitably qualified persons to act as consultants.
- The chair must be appointed from its members by the diocesan bishop. The chair holds office for three years and is eligible for reappointment without limit on the number of terms served. In his/her absence, the other members present must elect a chair for the meeting.
- The members elected by the conference and those appointed by the bishop hold office for three years and are eligible for re-election with no limit on the number of terms served. The membership of a cleric ceases at the age of 70, or upon retirement from office, and that of a lay member at the age of 75.
- The Board may appoint sub committees, must meet at least three times a year and must decide its own procedure.

## **Reporting to the Representative Body of the Church in Wales**

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales has the power to issue directions and to control the Diocesan Property Board.

### **Purpose of the Board**

The purpose of the Board is as follows:

- To produce and implement a Strategic Property Plan for the Diocese, identifying the future requirement for all existing types of property in the diocese and identifying new opportunities
- To support the Mission Areas in developing their own Strategic Property Plans, in conjunction with the Mission Area Property Committee and using the Property Survey results
- To keep under review the pastoral need for property in the diocese and advise the Bishop, the RBCinW and the Diocesan Conference accordingly
- To oversee the purchase, sale and leasing of property within the diocese
- To manage the Property Improvement Fund and the Property Repair Fund under the guidance of the Representative Body and the Diocesan Board of Finance
- To oversee the programme of quinquennial inspections
- To carry out its functions under the Redundant Churches Regulations
- To advise the DBF on the payment of grants and loans to churches for any purpose connected with church buildings, their curtilages and contents
- To give effect to any other provisions relating to the care of churches as may from time to time be prescribed
- To consider matters referred to it by the DAC, and seek its advice where appropriate
- To carry out other such duties as may from time to time be properly required of it by the Diocesan Conference

I trust this information is helpful and am very grateful for your help and support in identifying members of the diocese who are qualified and willing to serve on this new Board.

**Diane McCarthy**  
**Diocesan Secretary**  
**26 May 2017**