



From David Pain:

Next steps in Working Together - the Diocesan Reviews 2019

Our Diocesan Secretary David Pain launches our new 'Working Together' with an update on the present Diocesan-wide Review process.

What are the most important things for us to work together on?

What matters most in our diverse communities and what part might the church and school play in renewing hope through prayer and service? How do we link what we are doing locally with how we work together across the diocese as a whole?

How might we grow in number and impact as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in the places where we live and work?

In March this year Bishop John Gladwin undertook a review for the Diocese, taking stock of how we are working with Renewing Hope: Pray, Serve, Grow. His [report](#) was discussed widely and feedback shared with the Bishops Council in July. Bishop John challenged us to consider carefully and fully the consequences of a fast changing environment and the opportunities this creates for us to grow in faith and deepen spirituality in mission and ministry. He highlighted challenges in our administration and management of diocesan work.

Since May, reviews have also been taking place looking at our approach to the management of property and glebe land, our IT systems, communications, Fairer Share and fundraising. In all of these we have been conscious of the thinking and direction of the Church nationally and of the specific local needs of communities across Dorset and Wiltshire. We have been considering carefully what it might mean to 'travel light' and 'go local' as Bishop John encouraged us to do.

This September the Bishop's Council will be gathering together all that we have learnt so far. From this we will be establishing a clear list of our priorities and sharing this for discussion and decision

at the November Diocesan Synod. The list of priorities will be linked to a sustainable financial framework- our planned income and expenditure, for the period 2021-25.

This will enable us to close the current annual gap of £1m between what we spend and our income as a diocese. During the first half of 2020 there will be an opportunity to talk together in meetings across the diocese about this framework so that we can finalise our budget for 2021 when we hold our Synod and AGM in June.

I look forward to working together with you as we make these decisions for the future.

David Pain

Diocesan Secretary