



Thames North Synod Resources Committee Report

Paper I
22 October
2022

Since the last report to Synod in March 2022 the Resources Committee has continued to hold regular meetings by Zoom. The meetings held in the last six months have maintained the Committee's work in four main areas.

Property

This area of work includes:

- supporting churches to maintain and manage their property resources and finances and where necessary taking decisions on applications for property grants and loans
- receiving reports on and providing oversight of major building projects and their finances
- supporting our officers and overseeing their work to provide churches with advice on property maintenance and legal advice, particularly with regard to property sales, planning and leases.

Mission and People

Applications for grants to support the employment by congregations of staff for mission, outreach, children, youth and families work are now reviewed jointly with the Discipleship Steering Group. Wherever possible we encourage churches to make contact with DSG before submitting an application so that initial discussion of the proposal with the church can take place before an application comes to committee. Grants for employing staff are intended to allow work to be initiated and developed so that at the end of a grant period congregations are able, if possible, to assume financial responsibility for taking the work forward.

Finance

We receive regular reports from the Synod Accountant and Treasurers to facilitate our monitoring of the Synod's accounts and budget. The Committee's officers have recently participated in discussions with the Accountant and Assistant Treasurer as part of the preparation of the Synod budget for 2023.

Ministry and Mission Fund Despite the financial difficulties which many churches have faced over the last year, the overwhelming majority of congregations have maintained their contributions to the Ministry and Mission fund, sufficient for us to anticipate that we will meet our Synod 2022 target with Church House. We acknowledge with grateful thanks our congregations' commitment to the denomination and its ministry.

Churches have been informed of the Synod's requests for M & M contributions in 2023. We look forward to receiving pledges from congregations following church meetings by the end of this month.

Emergency Energy Costs Grants

Church Treasurers have recently been circulated with details of grants which the Synod is making available to assist congregations with increased energy costs over the coming

winter. We look forward to receiving applications for these grants in due course as the level of increased energy costs from the beginning of this month becomes clearer.

Treasurers and Administrators' Conference, 18 February 2023

Our annual conference will be held this year on Saturday 18 February. The event will be held at Lumen and delegates will be able to attend either in person or on line. Further details concerning the event and booking arrangements will be circulated in the new year.

As always, I am indebted to the Committee members for their support and to our officers for their exceptional commitment to the Synod and the work of the Committee. It was a particular pleasure at our last meeting to welcome Sacha McArdle as our new Assistant Property Officer.

John Wise
Convener, Resources Committee
October 2022