



Thames North Synod Resources Committee

Paper G
16 March 2024

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Resources Committee Report

The Committee continues to meet online, six times a year. Committee work includes:

- Support for churches with the maintenance of their properties with property and legal advice, and administering applications for grants and loans
- Manage the Synod's own property portfolio
- Support our officers and oversee their work, particularly with regard to major building projects and their finances, property sales, planning and leases.
- Work in partnership with the Discipleship Committee to consider grant applications for mission and outreach, including the employment of staff for children, youth and families work
- Work alongside the Synod Accountant and Treasurers to monitor the Synod's accounts and budget
- Arrange our annual conference for Church Treasurers, Secretaries and Administrators

We continue to make progress in unravelling some long-running issues around major projects as well as responding to the needs of local churches in developing their mission. An up-to-date Church Life Review developed by the local church is the essential pre-requisite for this.

Annual Conference

The recent successful conference held at Lumen, 2nd March 2024 attracted around 90 delegates attending either in person or on-line and focused on property, finance and legal updates. We encourage all churches in the Synod to send representatives as those who do take part find it very useful.

Ministry and Mission Fund Despite the financial difficulties which many churches are experiencing, the great majority of congregations have maintained their contributions to the Ministry and Mission fund. We anticipate that if all churches make their promised contributions we will come close to meeting our Synod 2024 target with Church House. We acknowledge with grateful thanks our congregations' commitment to the denomination and its ministry.

Churches will shortly be receiving our requests for information covering their income for 2023 as the first stage in determining M & M contributions in 2025. We look forward to receiving either copies of church accounts, or your completed income proforma for 2023, in due course.

Emergency Energy Costs Grants

For the past year the Resources Committee has made available emergency energy cost grants of up to £1,500 to congregations adversely affected by increased costs in Gas, Oil or Electricity. To date only a few churches have taken up this opportunity, which may in part be due to fixed contracts only recently coming to an end. The deadline for applications has again been extended and now runs until 31 March 2025.

Synod Eco Fund

Following the adoption by Synod of the Thames North Environmental Policy a special Eco Fund of £1 million has been set up within the Synod Budget. The Fund has been created to provide grants and loans to churches seeking to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and reduce their carbon footprint. An Application Form and accompanying notes are available for churches to use. As a first stage the fund will pay for churches to undertake an energy audit and/or a feasibility study before developing a full grant application for a specific project. As an initial step, the fund will consider covering the costs associated with churches conducting an energy audit and/or feasibility study prior to submitting a grant application for a specific project. My thanks are due to all who serve on the committee both as officers and volunteer members.

Peter Knowles
Convenor, Resources Committee
March 2024