

OXFORD DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE

Revised Articles of Association

1 *History*

Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance was first registered as a company in 1916. Its Articles reflect the conditions and assumptions of the time, and have been amended only in very limited ways since then.

In particular, they do not reflect either the legislative changes that have occurred during the last century (for example the changes in glebe ownership and management brought about by the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976, or the more collaborative nature of ministry emerging from the Clergy (Terms of Service) Measure 2009 or the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011). The concept of ministry by the laity is almost non-existent.

A particular change noticeable by its absence is the 20:20 overlap between the membership of the Diocesan Synod and the membership of the DBF. Oxford Diocese led the way with this, many years ago, but the present Articles scarcely touch on it.

2 *Process*

A first draft of the new Articles was prepared some months ago and scrutinised by a small group consisting of:

- John Tattersall
- Rosemary Pearce
- Julie Dziegiel
- Michael Waring
- Howard Cattermole

This group identified a number of points, both stylistic and substantive, which they thought needed to be addressed for clarity and emphasis. Bishop's Council looked at the draft at its meeting on 6 February, and gave its support. I attach the result of our collective labours.

If Synod is minded to adopt these Articles to replace the present Articles, they will need to be approved by the Charity Commission before they can be registered at Companies House, since some of them affect the wording of fundamental provisions, such as the Objects of the Board (though the changes are nevertheless stylistic rather than substantive). The Commission may want to make further amendments to the draft.

3 *Recommendation*

I hope it will not be necessary to discuss the merits (or otherwise) of specific wording at the Diocesan Synod – not because there is anything to conceal but because drafting in a large group of articulate and well-meaning members is almost impossible! Nevertheless, I should be glad of any constructive comments, which I would be delighted to incorporate, if they improve the sense of the document.

Subject to this, I invite the Diocesan Synod to approve the attached draft for submission to the Charity Commission for approval, and thence (subject to any amendment required by the Charity Commission, which would then be approved finally by the Bishop's Council) to Companies House, for registration as amendments to the 1916 Articles.

Canon John Rees
Diocesan Registrar
26 February 2015