

OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

17th November 2018

FIRST NOTICE PAPER QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 70

Question:

Mr Philip Read (131) Newbury Deanery, to ask the Chair of the Board of Finance:-

“When was the investment performance of Newton last reviewed in comparison with the returns of competitors managing assets in the Church and Charity sector?

Could we please see a summary of the findings of any such review?”

Note: Mr Read has declared an interest in this matter, being a Director of CBF Funds Trustee Limited.

Response:

The Revd John Tattersall, as Chair of the Board of Finance, to reply:

“A comparison of the performance of Newton Investment Management with competitors took place in November 2016. The decision to choose a manager prepared to manage our funds on a segregated basis – so that ethical and other criteria are determined by our investment committee rather than the investment manager - was made in the first instance, rather than to invest through pooled funds such as the CBF funds. The Glebe Investment Committee compared the performances of Newton with CCLA and Sarasin, other key managers in the charity sector which manage on a segregated basis. A number of factors such as the management fees, the size of their funds, their degree of engagement with investee companies (for example on ethical and governance issues) and the experience of the charity managers was considered in addition to their investment performances.

The Glebe Investment Sub-Committee concluded that performance was comparable in terms of investment return across a range of funds and also in terms of other factors so there was no reason to change at that time. It was agreed to review the Fund Managers again in 3 years, which is likely to coincide with the retirement of our portfolio managers at Newton. We may also reassess the decision to go for segregated investment management rather than pooled funds at that stage.

I should declare an interest as a non-executive member of the board of directors of CCLA which manages the CBF funds”.

The Reverend John Tattersall
Chair, Diocesan Board of Finance