

# OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

16 November 2019

## FIRST NOTICE PAPER

### QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 70

ONE question has been received:

#### **Question ONE:**

**Mr Thomas Walton** (130) Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery, to ask:

“Approximately how much has the Diocese spent on the development and production of the new Parish Planning Tool, in terms of money, resources and staff time?”

#### Reply from the **Diocesan Secretary:**

Early in our Diocesan Common Vision process, Bishop Steven identified that churches would need a new and different form of resource to support the parish mission planning process. This recognised that to explore the question 'how are we being called to be more Christ-like for the sake of God's world' required a process more focussed around spiritual discernment than the standard and more functional strategic planning approach. There was no existing mission planning tool which fitted this brief and which would be responsive to the breadth of missional contexts across our Diocese resulting in the need to research, discern and design a new resource.

The design print and collation costs of the new Parish Planning Tool are £8.66 per pack. This was a planned project in the 2018/19 workplans of the Mission and Communications Department, commissioned by the common vision project steering group. While teams are not required to record project hours, the estimated staff time spent in developing the Parish Planning Tool is c. 160 hours (4.3 weeks).

The response to the tool at the three Archdeaconry Area Days has been extremely positive and the tool has become a key resource for our Parish Development Advisors and the parishes exploring their call to become more Christ-like. Seven archdeaconry training sessions have been scheduled, with more to come. Over 40 churches trained in the approach at the time of writing.

A copy of the Parish Planning Tool is made available to each parish/benefice free of charge and also those requesting a copy at each Archdeaconry Area Day (around 150 packs were distributed at the recent Dorchester Area day alone). Additional packs may be purchased online at a cost of £10 per copy, along with additional listener cards. The Parish Planning Tool content is also available free of charge to our parishes to download and print locally.

Excluding *Pathways* magazine, which is produced for a general church audience, the Parish Planning Tool is the first significant print expenditure in support of our common vision of a more Christ-like Church that does not have revenue attached to it. In other words, the sales income attributable to the four published study guides covered all production costs prior to the development of the Parish Planning Tool and sales income continues to be generated for these items.