

Coronavirus, the DBF, the diocese and you

No one could have foreseen such dramatic circumstances which we are now working under, nor the speed and severity with which the Covid-19 crisis has struck. However, thanks in great part to today's technology, the work goes on, says Howard Llewellyn, Diocesan Secretary

The primary purpose of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) is to support Bishop Joanna and her clergy in the delivery of Mission and Ministry. In advance of the lockdown being announced, we adopted contingency plans for working from home to ensure we would continue to provide that support.



Business as usual is clearly impossible in the current circumstances but the DBF has set up a Crisis Management Committee (CMC) which meets regularly via Zoom to lead us through these difficult times. All staff are working on behalf of the DBF and you, to navigate through this unprecedented crisis.

Our core activities are the efficient management of the finances and resources of the diocese. Clearly, we are unable to do this face-to-face, but all staff continue to undertake their normal duties. Most are now working at home, but some are attending the office to ensure post and documents are received and distributed. Others, subject to effective social distancing, continue to manage building and repair works and to inspect our properties to ensure their safety and security.

The work of the DBF, as a community-based charity, must continue and this is being directed by the CMC, which comprises senior clergy and committee chairs. This group has the full authority of the DBF to conduct business and report accordingly. The availability of digital means of conferencing has meant that our calendar of committee and other meetings continues as planned.

Our website, social media and other digital channels enable us all to see the latest information about the activities of the Bishop, her staff and the diocesan administration. The website is updated regularly, and daily services of Morning and Evening Prayer, conducted by Bishop Joanna, are posted every day. These sites also provide links to the innovative things many of you are doing on a local level to keep us inter-connected, especially through acts of worship.

We trust that this will ensure we can all feel connected with the wider diocese and with each other in as many ways as possible.

The DBF is doing what it can to support our communities in this time of immediate need and to ensure that we can continue to support you, and the whole diocese, in the future.