

## Chairman's Report 2016-17

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The four-fold purpose for the existence of the CDEF remains:

To promote evangelical ministry in the parishes of the diocese by:

- Representing the views of evangelicals to the bishop and the diocesan staff.
- Making sure that there are evangelicals proposed for elections to General Synod and to the committees of the Diocesan Synod.
- Through its local and central meetings, clergy and laity meeting together to encourage one another and to consider issues of importance.
- Providing a safe place for dialogue between evangelicals of different traditions, so that we may hold together on essentials.

These objectives continue to shape our activities over the last year.

Some of the CDEF's work goes on behind the scenes – earlier this year the officers from the DEF met with Bishop Martin to discuss issues of concern to evangelicals and agreed with him that this will become an annual meeting. Over the next year we hope to arrange a meeting between the Bishop and two dozen or so leaders from evangelical parishes across the diocese.

A casual vacancy arose for Bishop's Council last autumn and in November we were delighted that Rev. Nick Cornell was elected to the Council. A casual vacancy on General Synod meant that the votes previously cast were revisited and a candidate elected based on those votes - we were delighted that that person was Rev. James Hollingsworth.

Ian Paul spoke on "The Bible: Open to Interpretation?" at last year's autumn conference to tie in with the Diocesan year of the Bible. He was very well received, thought-provoking and stimulating. His blog ([www.psephizo.com](http://www.psephizo.com)) continues to be a source of much wisdom and reflection on events in the Church of England.

In the spring our conference took the theme of the 'Elephant in the Room' and focused on areas that we don't often talk about in church. Rev. Andy Angel gave a very helpful and thorough Bible reading and we then departed from the previous format by splitting into seminar groups on different topics. I am very grateful to all those who led the seminars and the feedback to the committee indicated that the conference was very well received.

Following General Synod's failure to take note of the House of Bishops report on Marriage and Same Sex Relationships in February we are looking at how we can organise another day of discussion and consultation.

The work of the CDEF is led by a small committee and I am very grateful to them for their work – to those who have organised the superb conferences we have had this year and in particular to the three officers, Jacob Vince (who was co-opted as vice-chair during the year), Hugh Lowries and Peter Markby. I would also like to pay tribute to Jeremy Taylor and for his 6 years at the helm and leaving the CDEF in such a good shape.

*Martin King*  
**Chairman**

October 2017