

Chairman's Report 2020-21

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.
- Clergy and laity meeting together to encourage one another and to consider issues of importance through local and central meetings,
- Providing a safe place for dialogue between evangelicals of different traditions, so that we may hold together on essentials.

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

Sadly, last year's Conference was postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Instead we moved online with Zoom. Lee Gatiss, Director of Church Society, gave an exposition of Titus 2 at lunch time and we held our AGM.

Our Spring Conference, titled 'Called To Rebuild', was held online in April. Bishop Ruth took the example of Nehemiah and the Israelites returning to the land after exile and helped us to think about what God has to say to us and the lessons we can learn as we re-gather as Church communities in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. This was very popular with nearly 90 people joining us.

Diocesan synod elections have taken place this year and we will be encouraging people to stand for the various diocesan boards, councils and committees.

A large part of our work this year has been in preparing for the General Synod elections. Voting closes tomorrow with results due next week. The makeup of the new General Synod will be key to what happens with *Living in Love and Faith*.

Much of the CDEF's work goes on behind the scenes. Soon after last year's AGM Jacob Vince and I met with our two new Suffragan Bishops. We were impressed and encouraged by our meetings.

In March the CEEC arranged another meeting of DEF chairs and Secretaries, this time on Zoom. This provided the opportunity to hear about the work of other DEFs and share ideas, as well as hearing about some of the work the CEEC are doing and praying together. Another meeting is scheduled for this November. CEEC have also published a number of resources throughout the year as well as providing support to those considering standing for election to General Synod.

Due to Coronavirus the officers have not met with Bishop Martin this year to discuss issues of concern to evangelicals. However, together with leaders of the SGP, I met with him on Zoom at the beginning of February to talk about his New Year article in the Brighton Argos. We hope to meet with Bishop Martin again in 2022.

The work of the CDEF is led by a small committee and I am very grateful to them for all their work, in particular to my three fellow officers Jacob Vince, Sam Cater and Linda Humble.

Martin King

Chairman

October 2021