

Chairman's Report 2017-18

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.

Some of the CDEF's work goes on behind the scenes – earlier this year the officers from the DEF met with Bishop Martin (as we now do each year) to discuss issues of concern to evangelicals.. At the beginning of July we organised a meeting between Bishop Martin and a number of leaders from evangelical parishes across the diocese. This was a helpful and constructive meeting and gave us a chance to explore a wide range of concerns with the Bishop.

A casual vacancy on General Synod arose at the start of the year as a result of the resignation of Lorna Ashworth in November. Two evangelicals stood in the by-election and Malcolm Harris was elected.

This year has seen the election of a new Diocesan Synod. Whilst a good number of DEF members have been elected in the house of clergy, both the houses of clergy and laity have a fair number of vacancies. However a number of these are in the process of being filled. We have been encouraging people to stand for the various diocesan boards, councils and committees – the closing date for nominations is this Friday, 5 October.

We have also recently had elections for The Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC), which is the national equivalent of the CDEF. Jacob Vince has been elected on to the Council. More details can be found on their website: www.ceec.info

Steve Daugherty, with his team at Trinity Lewis spoke at last year's autumn conference on making a Vision Reality, sharing their experience in Lewis of bringing three Churches together into one. It was well received and appreciated by those who came. Unfortunately attendance suffered somewhat with an SGP meeting the same week. We will endeavour to avoid such clashes in the future.

2018 has been the Diocesan year of prayer and so in a departure from our regular spring programme of a Saturday morning conference, we held a quiet day instead. Bob Key led the day at Slaugham Church looking at Peter in John's Gospel. The day was very well received by those who attended.

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 the three officers, Jacob Vince, Hugh Lowries and Peter Markby.

Martin King
Chairman

October 2018