

Chairman's Report 2018-19

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.

Angus MacLeay (Rector of St. Nicholas, Sevenoaks) spoke at our Autumn Conference last year on 'Cross-shaped Evangelism', looking at Penal Substitutionary Atonement and how we can proclaim the Gospel in a way relevant to our culture. It was well received and appreciated by those who came.

At last year's AGM a new Diocesan Synod had just been elected and we were encouraging people to stand for election to the various diocesan boards, councils and committees. The results were encouraging with a good representation of Evangelicals, including five on Bishop's Council.

Last year Peter Markby, having indicated his desire to stand down as Treasurer, kindly agreed to continue for one more year whilst we sought a new Treasurer. In March the committee co-opted Linda Humble to take over from Peter. I would like to thank Peter Markby for his many years' service on the DEF committee, including over a decade as treasure.

At our Spring Conference Carl Hughes spoke on Serving Christ in the World and the Church. For various reasons the conference was somewhat later in the year than usual (May) and unfortunately attendance suffered as a result.

A casual vacancy on General Synod arose after the February session with the resignation of Diane Kutar. In June Ian MacDowell was elected based on the results of the previous by-election when Malcolm Harris was elected.

Much of the CDEF's work goes on behind the scenes, and in July officers from the DEF (Jacob Vince, Hugh Lowries and myself) once again met with Bishop Martin to discuss issues of concern to evangelicals. This was a helpful and constructive meeting, giving us a chance to explore a range of concerns with the Bishop.

The Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC), created by John Stott in 1960 to provide a collective evangelical voice within the Church of England and link the DEFs, is looking to appoint a National Director. This will be a full time post with several strategic goals.

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 Linda Humble.