

Report from Synod Ministries Committee (SMC)

1. Changes in personnel

The last few months have seen several changes to personnel on the committee. Rev'd Jennifer Millington has retired as Convener and Rev'd Bridget Banks has taken on the role. Rev'd Russell Furley-Smith will stand down in April this year and our new Secretary Elect will be Dr Graham Campling. Ministries Committee also welcomed Tom Hackett who is the newly appointed CYDO.

2. DBS checks for Lay-preachers

The Safeguarding Advisory Group has given guidance on DBS checks for all local preachers and this has been reported to the Synod Lay Preaching Commissioners. SMC agreed that the responsibility for implementation should lie with the local church where the lay preacher is a member; and the most effective way of monitoring whether churches were complying with this requirement was through the annual church returns. The Lay Preaching Commissioner Jenny Sheehan wrote to all churches explaining the new requirement.

3. Review of Terms of Reference for SMC and Pastoral Committees

It has taken quite a period of time to assess and review the Terms of Reference for the Pastoral Committees and the Ministry Committee. The Committee is grateful to all those who gave their time to this process. This has now been accepted by the SMC.

4. Review of Synod Safeguarding policy

The SMC recognised that the previous CYDO had started some good work on the Synod Safeguarding policy which has now been completed by Revd Roger Jones. Roger is acting Safeguarding Officer until a replacement is found. Mrs Cathy Glazier has agreed to a Synod Safeguarding Link Person for children and young people. The Safeguarding Policy has been adopted by the SMC.

5. Review of the LMMR process

The Training and Development Officer with the Moderator has reviewed and simplified the LMMR process this has been seen by the SMC and passed onto Synod Council.

6. Discussions

The SMC has had a variety of schedule discussions on: i) Pastoral Care of Ministers ii) Transitional Ministry and iii) Ministerial Vocational Training. We have also had discussions on the concerns of Deployment.

Next meeting is 26th April 2016.

Bridget Banks, Convener of Ministries Committee