

# Strategy Programme Synod Update

## July 2025

### Introduction

This short paper is to keep Synod Members updated with significant developments within the Strategy Programme.

A longer report of progress against the Diocesan Action Plan will be presented to the first Synod of each Calendar year.

### Funding Applications

There have been no funding applications since the last meeting of Diocesan Synod.

### Staff Changes

The three vacancies discussed at the last meeting of Diocesan Synod have been filled:

- Chris Hack (Learning Platform and Local Ministry Officer) joined in May 2025
- Helen Emery (Whole Life Discipleship Officer) joined in June 2025
- Ben Care (Initial Ministerial Development Officer) will join in September 2025

No appointment was made following interviews to the post of Net Zero Carbon Manager. A second round of interviews is scheduled for the last week of June. This post is fully funded by the national church.

### Telford Minster

The BMO for Telford Minster is in the process of renewal.

We are anticipating that a programme manager will start on 18-month secondment on 1 July working 13 hours per week for Telford Minster and 19 hours per week for the Stoke Project. This fills capacity built into the projects and there is no cost to the DBF.

### Stoke Project

Alan Gault has been appointed as leader of Joiners Square and will be licensed on 29 July.

We are anticipating that a programme manager will start on 18-month secondment on 1 July working 13 hours per week for Telford Minster and 19 hours per week for the Stoke Project. This fills capacity built into the projects and there is no cost to the DBF.

Funding approvals are on track, with funding approved to be released for the leader of Joiners Square, The Operations Manager and the next stage of building works

We have agreement for the next two schools to join the Encounter Project and funding for the next member of the team approved.

Nick Smeeton  
June 2025