

Leeds Diocesan Board of Patronage

The Leeds Diocesan Board of Patronage (DBP) is a statutory body required for each diocese under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. The Leeds DBP was established as part of the Dioceses reorganisation scheme and came into being on 1 January 2016. Members are elected by the diocesan synod, although they themselves do not need to be members of that synod, for a six-year term. The Leeds DBP holds patronage interests in 40 benefices in the Diocese of Leeds.

What is Patronage?

The exercise of Patronage, ie the right to present a priest to a particular benefice, is an historic foundation element of the Church of England carried over from the pre Reformation Church. Every benefice has a patron.

Historically, it was the Patron who appointed and paid for the priest (the incumbent). Patrons still exist and retain the right of 'presenting' a priest to the Diocesan Bishop for appointment, but the Area Bishop, Archdeacon and the PCC are now also involved in the process. The patron may be the Crown, the Lord Chancellor, the diocesan bishop, an individual, the Diocesan Board of Patronage, a college, a society or trust, or (usually in the case of a team ministry) a group of individuals/bodies or a special board of patronage. If more than one person or body is involved, patronage is either exercised jointly or by turns depending on the provision of the pastoral scheme that created the benefice. Diocesan Boards of Patronage were established to hold patronage where a previous patron did not want to transfer the patronage to the diocesan bishop or another trust.

Leeds DBP Meetings

The Leeds DBP meets face to face twice a year (and by e-mail meeting if need be between these meetings) to discuss matters relating to the benefices where they hold patronage. Meetings are usually held in May and November. The new Board of Patronage members will be circulated to agree dates for the meetings.

Leeds DBP Work

There are three main areas of work that the Leeds DBP are interested in. These are: _

1. A vacancy in the benefice
2. Pastoral re-organisation involving the benefice
3. Suspension of the patron's rights.

1/ Vacancies

If there is a vacancy in a benefice that is not suspended, a member of the board is elected to represent the board during that vacancy. A separate booklet outlining this role is available to support the Board members in this role.

2/ Pastoral Reorganisation

Pastoral re-organisation can include union of benefices and/or parishes, the establishment or termination of team and group ministries, boundary changes and the closure of churches for regular public worship. Any pastoral re-organisation affecting a benefice where the Board holds a patronage interest will need to be discussed by the Board to ensure that the proposals are the best way forward for that benefice.

3/ Suspension

Suspension of presentation means the temporary removal of the right of a patron to present an incumbent for appointment to a benefice. The Bishop remains responsible for the cure of souls during the suspension, which he will normally exercise by the appointment of a priest in charge.

Further Information

For further information about the Board of Patronage, please contact the Secretary to the Board of Patronage, Deborah Thorley:

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