

DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH

**BISHOP'S MISSION ORDER
MADE BY THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE
UNDER PART 7 OF THE
MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011**

**TO ENDORSE AND MAKE PROVISION FOR THE LIGHTWAVE COMMUNITY
(ALSO KNOWN AS THE SUFFOLK FRESH EXPRESSIONS COMMUNITY)**

(as amended by an order of the Bishop dated 8th December 2020 and

2nd March 2023)

SUMMARY

**THE MISSION INITIATIVE, KEY PEOPLE AND PROVISIONS AND EXPRESSIONS USED
IN THIS ORDER**

(a) The Mission Initiative (i.e. the mission initiative endorsed by this Order)

The Lightwave Community (also known as the SUFFOLK FRESH EXPRESSIONS COMMUNITY)

(b) The Area of the Mission Initiative

THE DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH

(c) The Objectives of the Mission Initiative

The Mission Initiative is the Lightwave Community (also known as the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community), these two expressions being interchangeable throughout this Order) which is a missional community meeting in small groups in the Diocese and engaging in mission through the friendship networks of its members. The small groups aim to make new disciples mainly among those who for one reason or another would not become regular members of a parish based congregation and help members to engage more deeply in radical discipleship and mission, complementing and strengthening the ministry of the parish churches in the respective benefices.

The Lightwave Community also includes Rural Resourcing Churches whose task is to reach out to those who are not yet part of any church across rural areas and networks considerably bigger than that of a benefice or deanery. These Rural Resourcing Churches will support missional small groups and utilise them as a major part of their discipling.

This Bishop's Mission Order is intended to provide a legal framework for a growth in the number of fresh expressions of Church, rural resourcing churches and small missional groups to assist in their growth in depth, service, number and growing younger while remaining in close collaboration with parish churches. This will assist in the SFXC's aims to (a) help bring new Christians to faith (b) help both new and established Christians to grow in discipleship, vocation and leadership (c) enable inculturation of the gospel and the initiatives which arise from this to flourish

The Lightwave Community seeks to embody the following Christian values

All Involved - Everyone is included and valued. Everyone is involved in collaborative ministry

Becoming Disciples – A deliberate commitment to grow in faith and help each other to become more like Jesus.

Creating Community – Community involves "Being real" with each other - to be honest about the things we go through ourselves and to respond in a loving way to each other. Caring for each other enables us to care for our wider community too. Small missional groups are encouraged to support one or more of the parish churches in their benefices and, where appropriate, churches of other denominations as part of their commitment to Christian community

Doing Evangelism - Giving other people the opportunity to learn about Jesus

Encountering God – Reverence and Awe. Meeting with God - It is God who helps us and changes us.

Worship Patterns

The Lightwave Community encourages worship to be included in weekly small group meetings. Many will also be involved in public worship of a fresh expression of Church supported by the small group and/or in one or more parish churches. Occasionally the small groups may come together for a shared teaching and worship event. A priest licensed to the diocese (frequently part of the local benefice ministry team) would visit to preside if a Eucharist was to be celebrated.

For all small missional groups, fresh expressions of Church and Rural Resourcing Church, worship will be arranged so as to encourage weekly patterns of worship, taking account of patterns of worship in other churches in the area and aiming at synergy and complementarity.

(d) The Leader

Such person as the Bishop shall appoint – currently The Ven Canon Sally Ann Gaze, who is the Archdeacon for Rural Mission.

(e) The BMO Council

- The Leader
- The Visitor (see below)
- An ecumenical representative from another denomination appointed by the Bishop

- One or two other persons appointed by the Bishop
- No fewer than three nor more than five members of the Lightwave Community elected in accordance with clause 9.3.
- Other members appointed by the existing members of the council up to a total of 11 council members including all those others specified above.

(f) Others working in support of the Lightwave Community

- The project manager for the Growing in God in the Countryside (GiGitC) Project during the duration of the project
- The finance director of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance (The "DBF")
- The diocesan safeguarding officer
- The archdeacons of Ipswich, Sudbury and Suffolk
- The diocesan director of ministry and mission
- Other members of the GiGitC Project Board during the duration of the project
- Those employed by the Lightwave Community CIO (see (i) below)
- Those holding a Bishop's Licence relating to the Lightwave Community
- Those employed by the DBF to work in any capacity for the Lightwave Community

(g) The Visitor

The Right Reverend Michael Robert Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich

(h) The Review Period

The Visitor shall review the BMO as part of the Annual Report each year with a more detailed review every 3 years or as requested by the Bishop

(i) The Lightwave Community CIO

The charitable incorporated organisation to be formed to assist in the implementation and administration of the Mission Initiative whose trustees will comprise the members of the BMO Council

(j) The Trustees

The members of the BMO Council who will become the trustees of the Lightwave Community CIO

(k) Commencement Date: 1 December 2018

(l) Duration of Order Indefinite.

THIS ORDER

Introduction and Interpretation

- 1.1 A mission initiative ("the Mission Initiative") is being carried out under the name set out in the Summary on the first and second pages of this Order ("the Summary") in the Diocese specified in the Summary ("the Diocese").
- 1.2 The requirements of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 ("the 2011 Measure") for the making of this Order have been complied with, and following the consultations required by the 2011 Measure the Bishop is satisfied that it would be appropriate to make this Order in respect of the Mission Initiative.
- 1.3 In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires
 - 1.3.1 "the Bishop" means the Bishop for the time being of the Diocese or the person in episcopal orders to whom the functions of the Bishop of the Diocese in relation to this Order are delegated under any enactment;
 - 1.3.2 expressions which are also used in the 2011 Measure have the same meaning as in that Measure; and
 - 1.3.3 the singular includes the plural and vice versa.

Duration

- 2.1 Subject to the power of the Bishop to revoke or vary this Order under and in accordance with the 2011 Measure, this Order shall come into force on the Commencement Date specified in the Summary and shall continue in force for the period specified in the Summary, unless extended (pursuant to section 82 Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011)

THE MISSION INITIATIVE

The Mission Initiative

- 3.1 Pursuant to Part 7 of the 2011 Measure and subject to the terms of this Order, the Bishop endorses the Mission Initiative, which is to be known by the name set out in the Summary.
- 3.2 The Mission Initiative shall be carried out in the Area specified in Summary with the object of furthering the Church's mission by carrying out the objectives specified in the Summary.

The Leader

- 4.1 The Leader of the Mission Initiative for the purposes of the 2011 Measure:
 - 4.1.1 shall be a person or persons or a group of persons duly authorised by the Bishop in accordance with the 2011 Measure to carry out the functions of the Leader of the Mission Initiative under that Measure and this Order; and
 - 4.1.2 shall hold that position subject to the provisions of the 2011 Measure and this Order.

- 4.2 In this Order "the Leader" means the person named as such in the Summary (who also holds the office or authority specified in relation him or her in the Summary) or any other person or persons for the time being duly appointed as Leader in accordance with this Order.
- 4.3 The Leaders and Trustees shall carry out the Mission Initiative subject to and in accordance with the 2011 Measure and this Order and shall be responsible to the Bishop for its conduct.
- 4.4 The Leader, in consultation with the Trustees, shall put forward missional small group leaders to be recognized and episcopally commissioned for their ministry. The Leader, in consultation with the Trustees, may also appoint small group supervisors/mission accompaniers whose role is to support and supervise leaders of designated groups

Others working in support of the Mission Initiative

- 5.1 The Mission Initiative shall have a BMO Council, whose members shall act as its executive body and be the Trustees of the Lightwave Community. They shall relate to the Bishop in a similar manner to a PCC and shall additionally report to the Bishop in such manner as he may require. The Council shall, with the Lightwave Community CIO, make suitable arrangements for oversight of giving, stewardship and fundraising for the various parts of the Community, and for payments to the diocesan board of finance relating to stipends and other costs of those licensed to serve in the Community, with the intention that the Community shall contribute to the board of finance in the same way as do parishes of the diocese. The BMO Council shall, with the prior approval of the Visitor appoint a suitable person to be the Treasurer of the Community.
- 5.2 The membership of the BMO Council shall comprise the following who shall also be the Trustees
- The Leader
 - The Visitor (see below)
 - An ecumenical representative from another denomination appointed by the Bishop
 - One or two other persons appointed by the Bishop
 - No fewer than three nor more than five members of the Lightwave Community elected in accordance with clause 9.3.
 - Such other persons as the above members of the council may appoint, provided that the total number of members of the BMO Council shall not exceed 11.
- 5.3 The BMO Council shall work with the Leader in accordance with clause 4 above.
- 5.4 The BMO Council shall appoint a dedicated officer for safeguarding in the Mission Initiative to ensure the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and that the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service checks are made.

- 5.5 The Leader shall be responsible for nominating, training and supervising lay or ordained individuals to lead small groups in the Lightwave Community and their guests and invitees.
- 5.6 It shall be the responsibility of the Leader to satisfy herself (or himself) that worship and teaching of the Scripture within small group meetings are consistent with the teachings of the Church of England and that those leading small group meetings have the competence and capacity to do so.

The Visitor

- 6.1 The Visitor for the Mission Initiative for the purposes of the 2011 Measure ("the Visitor") shall be the person named as such in the Summary, or any other person appointed in that person's place in accordance with the terms of this clause, and shall perform the functions of the Visitor under the 2011 Measure.
- 6.2. The Visitor:
- 6.2.1. may resign with the agreement of the Bishop; and
- 6.2.2. shall cease to hold that position if the Bishop so directs in writing.
- 6.3 If at any time there is no Visitor for the Mission Initiative or that position is about to become vacant the Bishop shall appoint a person to be the Visitor to fill the vacancy.
- 6.4 The Visitor shall review the Mission Initiative at intervals of no longer than the Review Period specified in the Summary.

THE LIFE OF THE MISSION INITIATIVE

Exercise of ministry and relationship with those with the cure of souls

- 7.1 The Leader and any other clergy for the time being duly authorised by the Bishop to carry out functions in relation to the Mission Initiative may exercise their ministry in any place in the Area specified in the Summary for the purposes of or in connection with the Mission Initiative and in accordance with this Order without the permission of any person who has the cure of souls in that place.
- 7.2 The Leader shall use all reasonable efforts:
- 7.2.1 to consult regularly with each person having the cure of souls in any part of the Mission Initiative Area; and
- 7.2.2 to work in co-operation with all those persons and to ensure that all others with functions in relation to the Mission Initiative do so;
- and if the Leader experiences difficulty in doing any of those things or finds it is impracticable to do any of them the Leader shall report the matter as soon as practicable to the Visitor and seek the Visitor's guidance.

Worship

- 8.1 This Order authorises the holding of acts of worship (including the administration of the Sacraments) as authorised or directed by the Leader but subject to and in accordance with the 2011 Measure and any further directions by the Bishop

Provided that:

- 8.1.1 This Order does not authorise the solemnisation of marriage;
- 8.1.2 The sacraments shall be administered in accordance with the canons, enactments and other laws relating to their administration;
- 8.1.3. Holy Communion may with the permission of the Bishop be celebrated at meetings of Small Groups, fresh expressions of Church or at Rural Resourcing Churches, subject to any conditions which the Bishop may specify;
- 8.1.4 The Leader shall consult with the person having the cure of souls in the parish where it is intended the rite will be performed and the Visitor about any proposal for Baptism or Confirmation to be administered or for any other occasional office to be conducted in connection with or in the context of the Mission Initiative and such a proposal shall be implemented and the rite concerned shall take place only in accordance with the Bishop's directions
- 8.1.5 Such acts of worship may take place in a building within section 80(13) of the 2011 Measure only with the consent of the person who has the general management and control of the building;
- 8.1.6 Such acts of worship may take place in a church or other place of worship within section 80(14) of the 2011 Measure only with the consent of any person-having the cure of souls there.
- 8.2 All acts of public worship of the Mission Initiative:
- 8.2.1 if held in a place for which a register book of services is provided under Canon law, shall be recorded in that register book or, if the register is kept in electronic form created pursuant to amending canon no. 41; and
- 8.2.2. if held in any other place, shall be recorded in register books of services of the Mission Initiative or if the register is kept in electronic form created pursuant to amending canon no. 41, which shall record the same matters as Canon law requires to be recorded in register books of services for churches and chapels and which shall be kept in accordance with any directions by the Bishop.
- 8.2.3 Nothing in clause 8.2 shall apply to any meeting of the Lightwave Community which is not an act of public worship

Organisation and governance

This clause is subject to this order being renewed or otherwise continuing in force

- 9.1 The members of the Lightwave Community shall be those who are members of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England or

members of a Church not in communion with the Church of England which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and be those who have habitually attended at missional group meetings of the Lightwave Community during a period of six months prior to enrolment.

- 9.2 There shall be an electoral roll on which the names of the members of the Lightwave Community shall be entered. A person is eligible to have his or her name on the roll if he or she is baptised, aged 16 or over and has made a written application to have his or her name on the roll.
- 9.3 Within the first and each subsequent year of the Mission Initiative (not later than 31 May in each year) the members of the Lightwave Community shall hold a meeting of all such members at that time on the electoral roll which meeting shall be treated as though it were an Annual Parochial Church Meeting ('APCM') and in so far as is practicable, conducted in a similar fashion to meetings conducted under the provisions of the Church Representation Rules for the time being in force.
- 9.4 At each such Annual Meeting the members of the Lightwave Community at that time on the electoral roll shall elect no fewer than three nor more than five of their number to be members of the BMO Council. A Trustee so elected holds office as such for a period which begins with the conclusion of the annual meeting at which the person was elected and ends with the conclusion of the third subsequent annual meeting.
- 9.5 Nobody who is elected as a member of the BMO Council under 9.3 above may hold office as such for a continuous period which exceeds 9 years.
- 9.6 A person who has ceased to be eligible under 9.5 above may, after a period of three years, again stand for election to the BMO Council.
- 9.7 Subject to clauses 9.4 to 9.6 above, the term of office shall be according to rule M16 of the Church Representation Rules for the time being in force. The term of office will in all cases cease when the Order expires, unless extended (pursuant to section 82 Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011)
- 9.8 The BMO Council may appoint a person as a member of the council to fill any casual vacancy among the elected members as defined by rule 83(9) of the Church Representation Rules at any time until the next Annual Meeting by a resolution of the existing BMO council members. Such appointment to be until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting
- 9.9 The BMO Council may appoint other persons at any time to assist it in its work until the next AGM. Such persons may attend and speak at meetings of the BMO Council, but shall not vote.
- 9.10 A Trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:
 - 9.10.1 Retires by notifying the BMO Council in writing (but only if enough Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings).

- 9.10.2 Is absent without the permission of the Trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated.
- 9.10.3 Dies.
- 9.10.4 In the written opinion, given to the BMO Council, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months.
- 9.10.5 Is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of sections 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
- 9.11 The BMO Council shall hold no fewer than six meetings in each year as far as possible at regular intervals during each year
- 9.12 The BMO Council shall form a charitable incorporated organisation (foundation model) of which the members of the BMO Council shall be the trustees and members. The BMO Council shall implement the aims and objectives of the Mission Initiative at an operational level, support Lightwave groups and Lightwave Community members, hold and manage finance and property of the Lightwave Community, and employ Lightwave Community staff if appropriate.

Finance, management and control of property

- 10.1 Decisions as to funding of the Lightwave Community from the Strategic Development Fund or diocesan funding, shall be taken by the Diocesan Board of Finance, which shall hold, manage and control such funds and their application. They will normally own any property acquired with such funds, and employ any staff paid out of such funds. The DBF shall have the power to transfer funding designated for the use of the Lightwave Community to the Lightwave Community CIO to better enable its administration.
- 10.2 The Lightwave Community CIO shall hold, manage and control funds raised within or by the Lightwave Community, own any property acquired with such funds, and employ any staff paid out of such funds.

GENERAL DUTIES

General Provisions

- 11.1 The Mission Initiative shall be carried out subject to and in accordance with the terms of this Order, the 2011 Measure and all other relevant enactments and other legal rules, including those governing the Church of England.
- 11.2 The Mission Initiative shall be carried out having regard to the guidance in the Code of Practice drawn up and issued by the House of Bishops under section 84 of the 2011 Measure as in force for the time being.
- 11.3 The Leader and all others who are involved in the carrying out of the Mission Initiative shall use every endeavour to resolve any dispute or disagreement between

them and if they are unable to do so the Leader shall seek the Visitor's guidance on the steps to be taken in order to resolve it.

Safeguarding people from harm or from loss or damage to their property

- 12.1 The Mission Initiative shall be carried out in all respects in accordance with the guidance and policies issued by the House of Bishops and the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and in force for the time being on protecting and safeguarding children and adults at risk and any safeguarding concerns shall be referred without delay to the diocesan safeguarding officer (Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).
- 12.2 The Leader and all others who are involved in the carrying out of the Mission Initiative or who are acting on its behalf shall take all reasonable steps to avoid harm or loss being caused to any person.
- 12.3 If the Leader becomes aware that harm or loss has been or may have been caused to any person through or in connection with the carrying out of the Mission Initiative or by a person acting or appearing to act on behalf of the Mission Initiative, the Leader shall inform the Visitor without delay and provide the Visitor with full details of the circumstances and shall seek the Visitor's guidance.
- 12.4 The DBF shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that reasonably adequate insurance (including public liability insurance) is in force in respect of the activities of the Mission Initiative where these are not already covered by the insurance of a local PCC.

Accounts

- 13.1 Until the end of the GiGitC project the DBF shall ensure that:
 - 13.1.1 a fund or funds are established within the Diocesan accounts enabling monies to be given directly to the work of the groups of the Mission Initiative.
 - 13.1.2 The annual accounts of the-DBF include a true and fair view of all activities carried out by or in connection with the Mission Initiative in accordance with professional practice and standards;
- 13.2 The Leader shall ensure that copies of all accounts and annual reports prepared for the Mission Initiative are supplied to the Visitor.

I, the Right Reverend Martin Alan Seeley, as Bishop of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, endorse the Mission Initiative and make provision for it as set out above

[Signature of Bishop]

I the Reverend Canon Sally Ann Gaze, the Leader named in the Summary on the opening pages of this Order, declare my acceptance of the terms of this Order and accordingly assume responsibility to the Bishop for the conduct of the Mission Initiative

[Signature of Leader]

Dated.....Sally Gaze.....2018

1st. December 2018

We authorize the above variations to the scheme of 1st December 2018

x

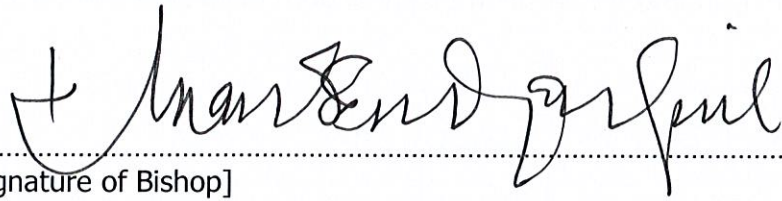
[Signature of Bishop]

x Sally Gaze

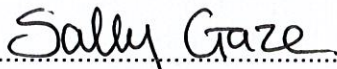
[Signature of Leader]

Dated.....8 December..... 2020

We authorise those variations necessary for the scheme of 1 December 2018 to be as set out above with effect from the date below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Enders', written over a horizontal dotted line.

[Signature of Bishop]

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Gaze', written over a horizontal dotted line.

[Signature of Leader]

Dated 21st Nov 2023 2023