

**To Diocesan Synod Members**

### **REPORT ON THE DIOCESAN OFFICES**

Synod members will recall the report at Diocesan Synod in November 2011 on the feasibility study being carried out to see whether it was possible to unite the teams working in Church House and the Diocesan Education Centre in one office in order to improve the integration of diocesan organisation to provide a 21<sup>st</sup> Century service to our parishes and schools

At a meeting on Thursday 3 March 2011 Bishop's Council, (the Executive Directors of the Diocesan Board of Finance) and representatives from the Board of Education reluctantly agreed that the proposed move of both organisations to new premises in Wilton would not proceed.

Both Boards looked carefully at all the options available to them to move to Wilton in June 2012 and had hoped to do so, but the risks and financial shortfall were simply too great.

However, both Boards are very much in favour of a Diocesan Education Centre being built at that location to house only the Board of Education.

Both Boards are obviously disappointed that we are not able to share a building after all, in such a wonderful location and are very appreciative of the commitment from Wilton Estates to this idea.

We remain optimistic that a new Diocesan Education Centre on the same site will still attract the visitors that we were planning for and the Board of Education wish to push ahead with plans to deliver first-rate facilities for training and support for schools and parishes on the same site.

Both Boards have committed to exploring, with the Cathedral and others how to better communicate and work together towards a common vision.

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