

ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD

12 MARCH 2016

QUESTIONS – FIRST NOTICE PAPER

- 1) The Reverend Dean Henley (Amphill and Shefford Deanery) to ask the Bishop of St Albans: -

"The Diocese is linked to a number of dioceses in the Caribbean, including the Dioceses of the Windward Islands, Guyana and Belize. In each of the countries that make up these diocese members of the LGBTIQ community are criminalized. So, for example, in Guyana, gay men face up to life imprisonment; in Belize, lesbians and gay men face up to 10 years imprisonment; with similar punishments in the countries of the Diocese of the Windward Islands (Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Grenada and St. Lucia). Additionally, lesbian, gay and bisexual people from overseas are denied entry into Belize. Where there have been attempts to seek the repeal of such oppressive legislation, it has frequently been the churches, including the Anglican Church that has fought to maintain the criminalization of LGBTIQ people and the consequent denial of their human rights.

What steps has the Bishop and the diocese taken to address the homophobia and human rights abuses faced by the LGBTIQ people in its Caribbean link dioceses?

- 2) The Reverend Dean Henley (Amphill and Shefford Deanery) to ask the Bishop of St Albans: -

"The *Statistics for Mission 2014* released by the Archbishops' Council on the 12th January 2016 show an almost uninterrupted pattern of decline in the Church of England's engagement with the people of this diocese in the last six years covered by the report (2009 -2014). The decline is in every aspect of the Church's involvement with the people of this diocese: church attendance; baptisms; confirmations; marriages; funerals and Christmas and Easter communicants. So for example, the decline in the average adult Sunday attendance in the diocese is 9.2% over the six years to a total of just 21,700 in 2014.

By what criteria will the success or otherwise of *Living God's Love 2020* be judged?

The answers will be tabled at Synod.