

**ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD**

**14 MARCH 2020**

**QUESTIONS – SECOND NOTICE PAPER**

- 1) Mr Anthony Archer (General Synod) to ask the Bishop of St Albans as President of the Diocesan Synod:

“What plans exist to review the Boards and Councils of the diocese, with a view inter alia to bringing together the functions of the Bishop’s Council and the Diocesan Board of Finance in a single body?”

The President will give an oral response to Question 1.

- 2) The Reverend Richard Brown (Luton Deanery) to ask Mr Colin Bird Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance:

“In light of the recent changes to the Parochial Fees Order for 2020 and the removal of the mandatory payment to PCCs in respect of funerals conducted in chapels at crematoria, will this Diocese adopt the same practice as other Dioceses (e.g. York & Derby) in authorising PCCs to retain a discretionary payment fee on the same basis as the previous order (£30) in order to ease the financial impact on parishes?”

Mr Colin Bird will respond:

I thank the Reverend Richard Brown for his question.

This was an unexpected change as far as the Diocese was concerned which has raised a number of concerns and queries from parishes.

I am pleased to tell you that at a recent meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance, it was unanimously agreed that as from 1 April 2020, PCCs can retain a discretionary amount of £30.00 of the total Crematorium fee, and a note to that effect has gone out to parishes this week.

An email has been sent to parishes confirming the policy.