



St Albans Diocesan Synod

Saturday 17 October 2020

Via Zoom

President: The Lord Bishop of St Albans

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

A meeting of the Diocesan Synod will be held via Zoom on Saturday, 17 October 2020. **A link and password to enable you to join the meeting will be sent out separately from the agenda.**

The Session will commence at 09.30 am and is expected to finish not later than 12.30 pm.

Please have access to this Agenda and supporting papers during the meeting. Members will be requested to sign in by adding their name to the meeting chat on arrival. Anyone wishing to attend who is not a member must contact Ruth Carl (01727 818131 diosecpa@stalbans.anglican.org) in advance in order to receive the meeting link.

If you wish to move any amendment to the specified resolutions, at least 7 days' notice must be given. Any amendment must, therefore, reach the Secretary to the Synod at Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans on or before **FRIDAY 9 October** and it will be circulated among members at the opening of the Synod. If such notice is not given, an amendment may then only be moved under the provisions of Standing Orders 21, 22 and 42 - 48. Copies of Standing Orders have already been circulated to all members.

Holywell Lodge
41 Holywell Hill
ST ALBANS
AL1 1HE

Telephone : 01727 854532
e-mail : spope@stalbans.anglican.org

Susan Pope
Diocesan Secretary

25 September 2020

Please refer to the **Diocesan Synod** webpage
<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/diocesan-synod/>
for .pdf copies of Synod Agendas and accompanying
paperwork,
dates of future Synods and other information.

AGENDA

9.30 am

1. **PRAYERS**

To be led by representatives from Stevenage Deanery.

2. **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

3. To confirm the **MINUTES** of the last meeting held on 14 March 2020 (enclosed – June meeting cancelled).

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & BUSINESS ITEMS**

10.00 am

5. **FORMULA FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD RULES TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS (2021-2024)**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the following will be moved from the Chair:

"This Synod agrees that for the purposes of the elections to the Diocesan Synod in 2021, there shall be no change in the number of members from that used previously, as set out in paragraph 2 of (DS/20/03)."

A paper (DS/20/03) is enclosed.

6. **PROCLAMATION OF THE CLERGY COVENANT FOR WELLBEING AS AN ACT OF SYNOD**

The Diocesan Secretary will proclaim the Clergy Covenant for Wellbeing as an Act of Synod.

A paper (DS/20/04) is enclosed.

10.10am

7. ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2019

To receive the Annual Reports of the Boards and Committees of the Diocese for 2019 and note that presentations from the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Board of Patronage presentations will form part of the March 2021 Synod Agenda.

The following Motion will then be moved from the Chair:

"That the Annual Reports of the Boards and Committees of the Diocese for 2019 be now received."

[The Reports of the Boards and Committees can be found on the Diocesan website at: [https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/17-october-2020/.](https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/17-october-2020/)]

8. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE FOR 2019

Mr Colin Bird, Chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, will present the Report and Accounts of the Diocesan Board of Finance for 2019 and, with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Director of Finance will give an update on the current financial position.

There will be an opportunity for members to ask questions.

Mr Colin Bird will then move:

"That the Report and Accounts of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for the year 2019, as laid on the table, be now received."

There will be an opportunity for debate before members are asked to vote on the motion.

[The full financial statements including the Diocesan Pastoral Account are available at the following link: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/DBF-Report-and-Accounts-2019.pdf>

The full financial statements have been audited by Buzzacott LLP and their audit opinion on those accounts is unqualified. The full accounts were approved by the Diocesan Board of Finance on Monday 6 July 2020 and have been filed with Companies House and the Charity Commission in accordance with the required deadlines.]

9. COVENANT FOR CLERGY CARE AND WELLBEING ROUNDUP

Feedback will be received from the discussion of the separate meetings of the Houses of Clergy and Laity held on Saturday 3 October 2020.

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop of Hertford will move:

"In the light of GS 2133 and the work that is being undertaken across the Diocese with regard to clergy care and wellbeing, and taking note of the feedback from the separate meetings of the Houses of Clergy and Laity, this Synod:

- 1) Celebrates the work that is already being done with regard to care and wellbeing across the Diocese, and
- 2) Instructs the Director of Ministry and the Board for Mission and Ministry to consider what further steps might be taken to promote clergy wellbeing and to report back to Synod in March 2021 on how the covenant can be adopted and implemented."

The Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing General Synod paper GS 2133 can be found at the following link: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/GS-2133>

Further resources are available on the Church of England website at the following link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/ministry-development>

10.55 am – 11.05 am (approx.) BREAK

10. 'BECOMING AN ECO DIOCESE'

The Bishop of Hertford will introduce Mrs Rachel Johnston – Diocesan Environmental Officer, who, with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, will give a short presentation on 'Becoming an Eco Diocese'.

There will be an opportunity for questions and debate.

The Reverend Canon Mark Slater (St Albans Deanery) will then move:

"That the Synod of St Albans Deanery, following the motion passed by General Synod in February 2020, which recognises that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice and which calls on all parts of the Church of England, including dioceses and parishes, to work towards net zero emissions, request the Diocese of St Albans to register with A Rocha UK for the Eco-Diocese Programme."

The Reverend Canon Mark Slater will further move:

'That this Synod request the General Synod to debate a motion in the following terms:

"That this Synod, following the motion passed by this Synod in February 2020, which recognises that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice and which calls on all parts of the Church of England, including dioceses and parishes, to work towards net zero emissions, request that every diocese register with A Rocha UK for the Eco-Diocese Programme.".'

A paper (**DS/20/05**) is enclosed.

11. QUESTIONS

Questions should have been submitted by 18 September 2020 unless the President has given special dispensation to accept shorter notice. No questions have been received.

12. STIPEND LEVELS FOR 2021/22

Mr Colin Bird, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, will move on behalf of the Board and at the request of the Bishop's Council:

"This Synod, noting the impact of Covid-19 on the ability of parishes to raise funds and on other income generated by the Diocese, resolves that the stipends from 1 April 2021 for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this diocese should be maintained at the same level as for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021."

13. DIOCESAN COMMON FUND BUDGET 2021

Mr Colin Bird, Chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, will move:

"That the estimates of requirements of the Diocesan Common Fund in 2021 in the gross sum of £15,358,256 be approved, and that the Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in accordance, therewith a sum not exceeding £15,358,256 and that the sum of £13,800,000 be requested as parochial contributions in 2021, to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme."

The 2021 Budget (**DS/20/06**) is enclosed.

Synod should finish no later than 12.30 pm.

**Dates of
Synods in 2021**

Saturday 13th March 2021

Saturday 12th June 2021

Saturday 16th October 2021

To be held at:

All Saints Academy
Dunstable
LU5 5AB

or via Zoom