

Private & Confidential

MINUTES of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy, Dunstable, on **SATURDAY 27 JUNE 2015**

The Synod convened at 9.30 am with the President in the Chair.

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Dr Jo Spreadbury (Watford Deanery).

2. **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

The Bishop addressed the Synod and a copy of his Address is attached to the original Minutes. The Address may be found on the Diocesan website:

<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/june-2015>.

3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 14 March 2015, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the President.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BUSINESS ITEMS**

The President noted those people who had recently joined or left the Diocese, taken up new roles within the Diocese, retired or died, and in particular thanked Canon Jon Reynolds, Diocesan Director of Education, who would shortly be leaving the diocese to take up a new post.

The President also advised that the appointment of a new Registrar would be announced shortly.

5. **PROCLAMATION OF AMENDING CANON NO. 32**

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the amending of Canon No. 32. Notices had been displayed in the hall.

Chair: Mr John Wallace, Chair of the House of Laity, assumed the Chair.

6. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been submitted.

7. **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014**

The Bishop of Bedford, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Education and, with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, Canon Jon Reynolds, Diocesan Director of Education presented the report of the Board of Education. With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No 4, the Reverend Will Gibbs, Chairman of the Verulam House Fund Trust, and the Reverend Ruth Pyke, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Patronage, presented their reports for 2014.

The Annual Report for the Diocese had been circulated and the opportunity was given to raise questions.

There were no questions raised. The Chairman thanked all those involved with the boards and committees for their work and encouraged members to stand, and to make nominations, for boards and committees in the forthcoming elections.

The Chairman then moved:

"That the Annual Report of the Diocese for 2014 be now received."

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

Chair: The Reverend Canon Jo Loveridge, Chair of the House of Clergy, assumed the Chair.

8. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE FOR 2014

Canon David Nye, Chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, gave a presentation. Questions were raised by the Reverend Ian Hill (Buntingford Deanery), the Reverend Richard Hibbert (Bedford Deanery) and Mr Phil Brown (Biggleswade Deanery).

Canon Nye responded and then moved:

'That the Report and Accounts of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for the year 2014, as laid on the table, be now received.'

The full Annual Report and Accounts as laid on the table contained an annex including details of the St Albans Diocesan Pastoral Account and the Consolidated Fund for Statutory Education.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Canon Nye and the finance team for all their work.

Synod adjourned for coffee at 10.50 am and reconvened at 11.10 am with Mr J Wallace, Chair of the House of Clergy, in the Chair.

9. REFORM AND RENEWAL

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No 4, Canon Dr John Spence, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Archbishops' Council gave a presentation, supported by Mr Nick Hills from Church House.

All the reports and an introduction to the national debate may be found on the Reform and Renewal webpage: <https://www.churchofengland.org/reform-renewal.aspx>.

Questions and comments were offered by Mr Simon Baynes (St Albans Deanery and General Synod), the Reverend Martin Bailey (Sharnbrook Deanery) and Mrs Christina Rees (Buntingford Deanery and General Synod).

Canon Dr Spence and Mr Hills responded.

The Chairman thanked them for their presentation.

Chair: The Reverend Canon Jo Loveridge, Chair of the House of Clergy, assumed the Chair.

10. IMMIGRATION

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Reverend Dr Susanna Snyder from Ripon College gave a presentation covering current issues concerning immigration, looking at relevant theological and biblical material and exploring what Christians might do.

Mr Simon Best, Chair of the Board for Church and Society, then moved:

"This Synod:

- welcomes the contribution that immigrants make to society in the United Kingdom and to our churches;*
- encourages church members to support those entitled to remain in the United Kingdom as they seek to integrate into the communities in which they live; and*
- recognising and engaging with the variety of reasons that people seek asylum in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, asks our churches to treat asylum-seekers with respect and provide support as needed while their claims are being assessed."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 1 ABSTENTION.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12.50 pm.