

Private & Confidential

MINUTES of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy, Dunstable, on **SATURDAY 17 October 2015**

At 09.30 am a Eucharist was held in the main hall to mark the beginning of the new triennium, at which the Bishop of Hertford presided.

The Synod convened at 11.00 am with the Bishop of Bedford as Acting President in the Chair.

1. ELECTIONS

The Acting President announced that, as a result of the House elections, Canon Jo Loveridge had been elected as Chairman of the House of Clergy and Clerical Vice-President of the Synod, and Mr John Wallace had been elected as Chairman of the House of Laity and Lay Vice-President of the Synod.

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

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 27 June 2015, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Acting President.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BUSINESS ITEMS

The Acting President welcomed the Bishop's nominees Jake Pass, Dom Holroyd, Lauren Croucher, Kitty Fletcher and Tirzah Gulzar and he 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 John Kiddle, for his work as Director of Mission, as he prepared to leave the diocese to take up a new post in the Diocese of Southwark.

The Acting President welcomed Mr Matthew Chinery and Ms Sarah Clemenson of Winckworth Sherwood, St Albans Joint Diocesan Registrars, to their first Diocesan Synod. He congratulated the five members of the House of Clergy elected to represent the Diocese in General Synod 2015-2020 as follows; the Reverend Canon Dr Timothy Bull, the Reverend William Gibbs, the Reverend Kevin Goss, the Reverend Canon Susan Groom and the Reverend Peter Kay.

He further congratulated the five members of the House of Laity elected to represent the Diocese in General Synod 2015-2020 as follows: Canon Peter Adams, Mr Anthony Archer, Mr Simon Baynes, Mr William Seddon and Mrs Sophy Vickers.

4. PROCLAMATION OF AMENDING CANON NO. 35

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the amending of Canon No. 35. Notices had been displayed in the hall.

5. GUIDELINES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE CLERGY – ACT OF CONVOCATION

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the Act of Convocation. Notices had been displayed in the hall.

6. QUESTIONS

The text of four questions and the answers given had been circulated on the First Notice paper **DS/15/08**. A supplementary question was asked and reply made. The text is attached to the original minutes.

7. STIPEND LEVELS FOR 2016/17 AND DIOCESAN COMMON FUND BUDGET 2016

Canon David Nye, Chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, gave a presentation.

On behalf of the Board and at the request of the Bishop's Council, Canon David Nye moved: -

"This Synod, NOTING the recommendation from the Central Stipends Authority that the Regional Stipend Benchmark for this diocese be increased by 1.5% from 1 April 2016, RESOLVES that the stipends for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this diocese should rise by £384 (1.5% of £25,599) to £25,983 from 1 April 2016."

Canon David Nye then moved: -

"That the estimates of requirements of the Diocesan Common Fund in 2016 in the gross sum of £14,900,131 be approved, and that the Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in accordance therewith a sum not exceeding £14,900,131 and that the sum of £12,911,931 be requested as parochial contributions in 2016, to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme."

Discussion followed: -

The Reverend Canon Richard Hibbert (Bedford Deanery), the Reverend Canon Lynda Klimas (Amphill and Shefford Deanery); the Reverend Deborah Snowball (Rickmansworth Deanery); Mr John Butler (Welwyn and Hatfield Deanery); the Reverend Stephen Rees (Barnet Deanery); the Archdeacon of St Albans; Mr John Parsons (Rickmansworth Deanery)

Canon David Nye responded to the discussion: -

The first Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 5 abstentions.

The second Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

A copy of the 2016 Budget (DS/15/09) and Notes (DS/15/10) had been circulated.

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

8. PRESENTATION OF THE WORKINGS OF SYNOD

Mr John Wallace asked representatives of the Boards and Committees to talk for one minute on the activity of each Board to promote the work of the Boards and Committees to the new members of Synod, as follows: -

The Reverend Canon Pauline Higham (Hertford and Ware Deanery) Bishop's Council, Mr John Parson (Rickmansworth Deanery) Board of Finance; the Reverend Janet Mackenzie (Luton Deanery) Diocesan Board of Education; Mr Anthony Archer (Berkhamsted Deanery), Chair of Council for Discipleship and Ministry; Canon Peter

Adams (Luton Deanery), Board for Church and Society; the Reverend Fiona Gibson (Biggleswade Deanery), Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee.

9. **LIVING GOD'S LOVE 2020**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, Ms Kathryn Alford, Vision Development Enabler and Canon John Kiddle, Director of Mission, gave a presentation on The Listening Exercise and the Next 5 Years for Living God's Love.

The papers (DS/15/11-14) had been circulated.

The Bishop of Bedford, on behalf of the Bishop's Council then moved: -

"This Synod:

- i. celebrates the achievements that the diocese has experienced in Living God's Love since 2011;*
- ii. recognises that some elements of Living God's Love have proved more challenging to the diocese and its parishes;*
- iii. welcomes the proposals contained in 'Living God's Love: The next stage of the journey 2016-2020' and commends them for early consideration across the diocese;*
- iv. urges all boards and councils, deanery synods, PCCs and other stakeholders to reflect on how best they can together implement the proposals; and*
- v. commits itself to ensuring that decisions it takes over the next five years are informed by, and support, 'Living God's Love: The next stage of the journey 2016-2020'."*

There were responses from The Bishop of Hertford, the Reverend Lynn Money (Dunstable Deanery); Miss Kitty Fletcher and Miss Tirzah Gulzar (Bishops Nominees); Ms Lauryn Awbrey (Wheathampstead Deanery); Mr Ian Douglas (Welwyn and Hatfield Deanery); the Reverend Richard Banham (Wheathampstead Deanery).

The Bishop of Bedford responded: -

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

The Bishop of Bedford thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 2.00 pm.