

## **Private & Confidential**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at Richard Hale School, Hertford on **SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2016**

The Synod convened at 1.00 pm with the President in the Chair.

1. **PRAYERS** were led by Mr Philip Brown and Mrs Jane Gogarty (Biggleswade 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/diocese/bishop-of-st-albans-sermons/>

3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 12 March 2016, 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, in particular, Bishop John Taylor (former Bishop of St Albans) who died on 1 June 2016.

The President particularly expressed good wishes to the Archdeacon of Hertford on his forthcoming retirement and confirmed that his farewell service at All Saints, Hertford, followed the Synod meeting.

The President welcomed Miss Briannie Young from the Diocese of Belize.

5. **PROCLAMATION OF AMENDING CANON NO. 34**

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the amending of Canon No. 34. Notices had been displayed in the hall.

Following a question from Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery), the Bishop of St Albans undertook to seek further clarification and report back.

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

6. **ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2015**

The Bishop of St Albans, Chairman of Bishop's Council, the Bishop of Bedford, Chairman of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Reverend Canon Tim Lomax, on behalf of the Chairman of the Board for Church and Society, presented their reports for 2015. There was one question from the Reverend Dean Henley.

The Annual Report for the Diocese had been circulated and the opportunity was given to raise questions. There were no further questions.

The Chairman then moved:

*"That the Annual Report of the Diocese for 2015 be now received."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

## **7. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE FOR 2015**

Canon David Nye, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, gave a presentation. Questions were raised by the Reverend Ian Hill (Buntingford Deanery), Mr John Parsons (Rickmansworth Deanery) and Mrs Diana Perkins (Hertford and Ware Deanery).

Canon Nye responded and then moved:

*'That the Report and Accounts of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for the year 2015, as laid on the table, be now received.'*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

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

## **8. PARISH SHARE – VACANCY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Synod noted that the reduction in Stipend Contribution for parishes in vacancy would revert to 20% from 10% as from 1 January 2016.

*Synod adjourned for refreshments and reconvened with the Reverend Canon Jo Loveridge, Chair of the House of Clergy, in the Chair.*

## **9. QUESTIONS**

The text of two questions and the answer to Question 2 had been circulated on the First Notice paper **DS/16/04**, the answer to Question 1 were tabled on the Second Notice Paper **DS/16/04a**.

Two supplementary questions were asked and replies made. The text is attached to the original minutes.

## **10. HALF A MILLION EVERY WEEK : MISSION OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE OCCASIONAL OFFICES**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, the Reverend Canon Dr Sandra Millar gave a presentation on "Half a million every week : Mission Opportunities through the occasional offices".

There were responses from Mr David Clout (St Albans Deanery); the Reverend Will Gibbs (Wheathampstead Deanery and General Synod); the Reverend Simon Cutmore (Rickmansworth Deanery); Mr Ian Douglas (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery); Mr Phil Brown (Biggleswade Deanery); Miss Cathy Honeyman (Watford Deanery); Mrs Ann Sawyer (St Albans Deanery) and Mrs Christine Nutton (Wheathampstead Deanery).

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 4.05 pm.