

Private & Confidential

MINUTES of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy Dunstable on **SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2016**

The Synod convened at 09.30 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Richard Banham, Rural Dean of Wheathampstead 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/wp-content/uploads/Presidential-Address-October-2016>.

3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 25 June 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. The President welcomed the appointment of the Venerable Janet Mackenzie as the new Archdeacon of Hertford.

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

5. **FORMULA FOR DEANERY SYNOD ELECTIONS**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Chair moved:

"This Synod agrees to use the following formula for the election of lay representatives from parishes to deanery synods for the elections due in 2017.

***No. of names certified on
the parish electoral roll***

No. of representatives

<i>Less than 35</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>35 and not more than 99</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>100 and not more than 199</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>200 and not more than 299</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>300 and not more than 449</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>450 and not more than 599</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>600 and over</i>	<i>7"</i>

Note: This formula was last revised in 2001 and agreed by Synod for the elections held in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with one abstention.

6. **ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT**

The Chairman moved that the Synod rescind the motion passed at the March 2012 meeting as set out in paper **DS/16/05**.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with five abstentions.

7. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF READER MINISTRY**

The Bishop of Hertford gave a short presentation celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Reader Ministry.

8. **SAFEGUARDING PRESENTATION**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, Mr Philip Waller, Chairman of the Safeguarding Management Group, gave a presentation on Safeguarding.

There were responses from Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery); the Reverend Roni Goodman (Amphill and Shefford Deanery); Mrs Stella Brooks (Amphill and Shefford Deanery); the Reverend Charles Hudson (Cheshunt Deanery) and Mr Anthony Packer (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery).

Synod adjourned for refreshments and £180.00 was raised for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal from the sale of cakes. Synod reconvened with the Reverend Canon Jo Loveridge, Chair of the House of Clergy, in the chair.

There were further responses from the Bishop of Hertford, the Reverend Richard Banham (Wheathampstead Deanery); Mr Michael Taylor (Hitchin Deanery); the Reverend Simon Cutmore (Rickmansworth Deanery); the Reverend Canon Dr Peter Ackroyd (Bedford Deanery); the Reverend Lynn Money (Dunstable Deanery); Mr Philip Brown (Biggleswade Deanery); the Reverend Fiona Gibson (Biggleswade Deanery); Miss Pat Parker (Hertford and Ware Deanery).

The Chairman moved:

"This Synod affirms its commitment to safeguarding all God's people; adopts the national policies and Practice Guidance for Safeguarding within the Church of England available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-adults/national-policy-practice-guidance.aspx>; and commends them to the deaneries and parishes for adoption and implementation."

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

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

8. **QUESTIONS**

The text of two questions and the answers had been circulated on the First Notice paper **DS/16/06**.

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

10. LIVING GOD'S LOVE

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, the Reverend Canon Tim Lomax, Director of Mission updated the Synod on the next phase of Living God's Love.

11. STIPEND LEVELS FOR 2017/18 AND DIOCESAN COMMON FUND BUDGET 2017

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 stipend for this diocese be increased by 1.5% from 1 April 2017, RESOLVES that the stipends for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this diocese should rise by £390 (1.5% of £25,983) to £26,373 from 1 April 2017."

Canon David Nye then moved: -

"That the estimates of requirements of the Diocesan Common Fund in 2017 in the gross sum of £15,200,425 be approved, and that the Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in accordance therewith a sum not exceeding £15,200,425 and that the sum of £13,152,925 be requested as parochial contributions in 2017, to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme."

There was a question from the Reverend Dean Henley (Amphill and Shefford Deanery).

Canon David Nye responded to the question.

The first Motion was PUT and CARRIED with two against and six abstentions.

The second Motion was PUT and CARRIED with one against.

A copy of the 2017 Budget (DS/16/07) and Notes (DS/16/08) had been circulated.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12.36 pm.