

Private & Confidential

MINUTES of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy Dunstable on **SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Jonathan Gordon (Berkhamsted).

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 17 June 2017, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the President.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BUSINESS ITEMS**

The President asked members to remember in their prayers those in the link dioceses in the Caribbean who had been devastated by the recent hurricanes, and those suffering in the Rohingya crisis.

He noted those people who had recently joined or left the Diocese, taken up new roles within the Diocese, retired or died.

4. **PRESENTATION BY THE BISHOP OF LINKÖPING**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, Bishop Martin Modeus of Linköping gave a presentation on the Diocese of Linköping and the opportunities for enhanced links. The presentation was followed by the formal signing of a Covenant between the Diocese of Linköping in the Church of Sweden and the Diocese of St Albans in the Church of England.

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

5. **STIPEND LEVELS FOR 2018/19 AND DIOCESAN COMMON FUND BUDGET 2018**

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 2% from 1 April 2018, RESOLVES that the stipends for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this diocese should rise by £527 (2% of £26,373) to £26,900 from 1st April 2018."

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with TWO against and FIVE abstentions.

Canon David Nye then moved:-

"That the estimates of requirements of the Diocesan Common Fund in 2018 in the gross sum of £16,054,418 be approved, and that the Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in accordance therewith a sum not exceeding £16,054,418 and that the sum of £13,475,630 be requested as

parochial contributions in 2018, to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme."

Mr Anthony Archer (General Synod) moved as an amendment the insertion at the end of:

"And instructs the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee urgently to review the budgetary and other implications of proposed redundancies of diocesan staff and the reasons thereof, and to report back to Synod".

The Bishop of Hertford responded.

The Amendment was PUT and CARRIED with THREE abstentions.

There were questions from the Reverend Charles Hudson (Cheshunt Deanery); Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery); Mr Tim Fleming (St Albans Deanery); the Bishop of St Albans; the Reverend Lucy Davis (Amphill and Shefford Deanery); Mr Phil Brown (Biggleswade Deanery) and the Reverend Canon Tim Lomax (Director of Mission).

Canon David Nye responded to the questions.

The Main Motion as amended was PUT and CARRIED with THREE against and SEVEN abstentions.

A copy of the 2018 Budget (**DS/17/06**) and Notes (**DS/17/07**) had been circulated.

6. FORMULA FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS (2018-2021)

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

"This Synod agrees that for the purposes of the elections to the Diocesan Synod in 2018, there shall be no change in the number of members from that used previously, as set out in paragraph 2 of **DS/17/08**".

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

A copy of the paper (**DS/17/08**) had been circulated.

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

7. PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW BOARD FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

At the request of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop of Hertford introduced this item and moved:

"This Synod approves the proposed Constitution for a new Board for Mission and Ministry as set out in Paper **DS/17/09**".

There were responses from Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery); the Reverend Canon Dr Tim Bull (Director of Ministry); the Reverend Ysmena Pentelow (Hertford

and Ware Deanery); Mrs Janet Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery); Mr Anthony Archer (Berkhamsted Deanery); Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery); the Reverend Peter Kay (Sharnbrook Deanery); the Reverend Canon Michael Roden (Hitchin Deanery); Mr Tim Fleming (St Albans Deanery) and Mrs Sandra North (St Albans Deanery).

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with TWO against and THREE abstentions.

A copy of the paper **(DS/17/09)** had been circulated.

8. SOUL SURVIVOR WATFORD – PRESENTATION BY THE REVEREND ANDY CROFT

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, the Reverend Andy Croft (Pioneer Minister) Soul Survivor Watford gave a presentation.

There were responses from the Bishop of Hertford; the Reverend Lynn Money (Dunstable Deanery); Mrs Janet Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery); Mrs Sue Richards (Bedford Deanery); the Reverend Mandy Brown (Bishop's Stortford Deanery); Mr Jake Pass (Bishop's Nominee); Mrs Kerry Smith (Dunstable Deanery) and Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery).

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12.45 pm.