

## **Private & Confidential**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy Dunstable on **SATURDAY 16 JUNE 2018**

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

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Steve Wood, (Luton Deanery), the Reverend David Kesterton (Luton Deanery) and Canon Peter Adams (Luton 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 10 March 2018, 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.

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

5. **PROCLAMATION OF AMENDING CANONS NOS. 36 AND 37**

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the amending of Canons No. 36 and 37. Notices had been displayed in the hall.

6. **ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2017**

The Bishop of Bedford, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education and the Reverend Will Gibbs, Chair of the Verulam House Fund Trust presented their reports for 2017. The Reverend Will Gibbs presented the report for the Board of Patronage.

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

The Chairman then moved:

*"That the Annual Report of the Diocese for 2017 be now received."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

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

## **7. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE FOR 2017**

Canon David Nye, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, gave a presentation. There were responses from Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery) and Canon David Morton (Director of Education).

Canon Nye responded and then moved:

*'That the Report and Accounts of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for the year 2017, 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. QUESTIONS**

The text of three questions had been circulated on the First Notice paper (**DS/18/03**). The answers to questions 1, 2 and 3 were tabled on the Second Notice paper (**DS/18/03b**).

One supplementary question was asked and a reply made. The text is attached to the original minutes.

## **9. DIOCESAN MISSION AND PASTORAL COMMITTEE – PROPOSED CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop of Bedford introduced this item.

There were responses from Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery), Mr Michael Taylor (Hitchin Deanery), the Bishop of Hertford and the Reverend Mark Slater (St Albans Deanery). The Bishop of Bedford responded and then moved:

*"i) That from 1 January 2019, the functions of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee shall be carried out by the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee and via the meetings of Rural Deans as set out in **DS/18/04**.*

*ii) That from 1 January 2019, the members of the Committee should be members of the Bishop's Council as set out in **DS/18/04**.*

*iii) As a consequence of this, Standing Order 103 shall be amended, as set out in enclosed paper **DS/18/04**".*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with six abstentions.

A copy of paper **DS/18/04** had been circulated.

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

## **10. ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD MOTION**

Mr Simon Baynes (St Albans Deanery and General Synod member) gave a presentation.

There were responses from Canon David Nye (Wheathampstead Deanery and Chairman of the DBF), the Reverend Nick Sharp (Hertford & Ware Deanery), the Bishop of Bedford, Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery), the Reverend Canon Richard Hibbert (Bedford Deanery), the Reverend Dominic Newstead (Barnet Deanery), the Reverend Canon David Middlebrook (Watford Deanery), Mr John Edmundson (Sharnbrook Deanery), Mr Michael Taylor (Hitchin Deanery), the Reverend Mark Slater (St Albans Deanery) and the Archdeacon of St Albans.

Mr Simon Baynes responded and then moved:

*"That this Synod call on the General Synod to debate a motion in the following form:*

*That this Synod:*

- (i) Recognise the disruption caused to a parish and its mission during a vacancy;*
- (ii) Request the Archbishops' Council to review within 12 months the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 with a view to ensuring that:
  - a) The process for filling a vacancy in a benefice is begun as soon as practicable after the bishop becomes aware that the benefice is to become vacant;*
  - b) All concerned in the process of filling vacancies, including patrons, bishops, and parochial church councils, co-operate so that vacancies are filled as soon as reasonably practicable".**

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with one abstention.

A copy of paper **DS/18/05** had been circulated.

## **11. PRESENTATION ON ADVERTISING AND GAMBLING**

The Archdeacon of St Albans gave a presentation.

There were responses from Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery), the Reverend Lucy Davis (Amphill & Shefford Deanery), the Reverend Will Gibbs (General Synod and Wheathampstead Deanery), the Reverend Paul Boulter (Bedford Deanery) and Mr Bill Seddon (General Synod and Rickmansworth Deanery).

The Archdeacon of St Albans responded and then moved:

*"That this Synod call on the General Synod to debate a motion in the following form:*

*That this Synod, noting the greatly increased levels of gambling advertising and research showing significant levels of gambling by children:*

*(a) call on Her Majesty's Government to reduce the quantity and pervasiveness of gambling advertising and introduce a mandatory levy on gambling firms to fund independently commissioned research, education, and treatment programs;*

*(b) encourage churches to be an open place for people who have problems with gambling to seek support; and*

*(c) ask churches to support initiatives which educate children and young people about risks related to gambling".*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

A copy of paper **DS/18/06** had been circulated.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12.39 pm.