

## **Private & Confidential**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy Dunstable on **SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 2018**

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 Bedford presided.

The Synod convened at 11.00 am with the Bishop of St Albans in the Chair.

### **1. ELECTIONS**

The President announced that, as a result of the House Elections, the Reverend Javaid Iqbal had been elected as Chairman of the House of Clergy and Clerical Vice-President of the Synod, and Canon Peter Adams had been elected as Chairman of the House of Laity and Lay Vice-President of the Synod.

### **2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 16 June 2018, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the President.

### **3. 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.

### **4. WORKINGS OF SYNOD AND INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

The Archdeacon of St Albans presented an overview on the workings of the Diocesan Synod and introduced representatives of the Boards and Committees who each gave a short talk to promote the work of each Board to the new members of Synod, as follows:-

Mrs Janet Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery) Bishop's Council; Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery) Board of Finance; the Bishop of Bedford (Chairman, Diocesan Board of Education) and the Bishop of Hertford (Chairman, Board for Mission and Ministry).

### **5. QUESTIONS**

The text of two questions had been circulated on the First Notice paper **(DS/18/07)**. The answers to questions 1 and 2 were tabled on the Second Notice paper **(DS/18/07b)**.

Two supplementary questions were asked and replies made. The text is attached to the original minutes. An 'out of time' question was asked and a reply made.

## **6. STIPEND LEVELS FOR 2019/20 AND DIOCESAN COMMON FUND BUDGET 2019**

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 2019, RESOLVES that the stipends for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this diocese should rise by £538 (2% of £26,900) to £27,438 from 1st April 2019."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 4 AGAINST and 2 ABSTENTIONS.

Canon David Nye then moved:-

*"That the estimates of requirements of the Diocesan Common Fund in 2019 in the gross sum of £16,073,382 be approved, and that the Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in accordance therewith a sum not exceeding £16,073,382 and that the sum of £13,485,443 be requested as parochial contributions in 2019, to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 1 AGAINST and 3 ABSTENTIONS.

A copy of the 2019 Budget **(DS/18/08)** and Notes **(DS/18/09)** had been circulated.

## **7. "FELLOWSHIP IN THE DIGITAL WORLD"**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, Mr Arun Kataria, Diocesan Communications Officer, gave a short introductory talk in readiness for the "Fellowship in the Digital World" presentation in March 2019.

In preparation, members were invited to consider three questions in advance of Synod.

- 1) How can the church be salt and light in social media and also reach out to those who are suffering as a result of its misuse, e.g. rude or abusive messages or overuse?
- 2) How have you used or might you use social media in your parish to build new or better relationships with people on the fringes of the church?
- 3) Is digital fellowship with existing church members an option for the church or an obligation?

A copy of paper **(DS/18/10)** had been circulated.

The President announced that Canon David Nye was standing down as Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance and that it was his last Diocesan Synod before his retirement. He thanked him, on behalf of the Diocese and Synod, for his many years of outstanding service, including 30 years on the DBF, 16 as Vice Chairman and 11 as Chairman. He recorded appreciation of Canon Nye's vision and wisdom, and wished him well for the future.

The President further announced that this was the last Diocesan Synod meeting for the Archdeacon of Bedford before his retirement at the end of 2018. He highlighted the specific skills and expertise he had brought to the role having worked as a surveyor before being ordained in 1982. He thanked the Archdeacon for all his service and input to Synod, the Archdeaconry and the wider Diocese and wished him well for the future.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked the Reverend Canon Andrew Holford and the Diocesan Worship and Liturgical Committee for their organisation of the Eucharist to mark the beginning of the new triennium.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12.25 pm.