

## **Private & Confidential**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy Dunstable on **SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2019**

The Synod convened at 9.30 am with the Bishop of St Albans in the Chair.

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Canon Jo Loveridge and Mrs Diana Perkins (Hertford and Ware 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 9 March 2019, 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 Chairman welcomed the Archdeacon of Bedford and Mr Jon Baldwin (Deputy Diocesan Registrar) to their first Synod meeting, and in particular, thanked Mr Martin Bishop for his work as Financial Secretary, as he prepared to leave the diocese to take up a new post.

5. **PROCLAMATION OF AMENDING CANON NO. 38**

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the amending of Canon No. 38. Notices had been displayed in the hall.

*Chair: Canon Peter Adams, Chair of the House of Laity, assumed the Chair.*

6. **ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2018**

The Bishop of Bedford, on behalf of the Bishop's Council and Mrs Janet Bird, the Director of Mission and the Director of Ministry, on behalf of the Board for Mission and Ministry, presented their reports for 2018.

The Annual Report for the Diocese had been circulated.

There were questions from the Reverend David Shepherd (Watford Deanery); Mr Tim Fleming (St Albans Deanery).

The Director of Mission and the Director of Ministry responded.

The Chairman then moved:

*"That the Annual Report of the Diocese for 2018 be now received."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

## **7. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE FOR 2018**

Mr Colin Bird, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, gave a presentation. There were responses from the Reverend Canon Richard Hibbert (Bedford Deanery); Mr John Butler (Welwyn and Hatfield Deanery); Mr Bill Seddon (Rickmansworth Deanery).

Mr Colin Bird responded and then moved:

*'That the Report and Accounts of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for the year 2018, as laid on the table, be now received.'*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bird and the finance team for all their work.

*Chair: The Reverend Javid Iqbal, Chair of the House of Clergy, assumed the Chair.*

## **8. INTRODUCTION TO LIVING GOD'S LOVE 2025**

Over the extended Coffee Break, members discussed and reflected on the following questions and prepared responses arising from their discussion:

### **Looking back:**

- 1) What has had the most impact in realising our vision?

### **Looking forward:**

- 2) As you think about our ability to sustain faith across the church of our diocese into the future, what do you think we really need to address and why?
- 3) Growing younger, so that our churches can engage with people of all ages, is an urgent need. In your context what is the biggest opportunity for growing younger and why?
- 4) As we look at ourselves, what are the main issues that we need to face up to during the third phase of LGL and why?
- 5) What would you like people outside the church family to be saying about your church in five years' time?

Following the Coffee Break, a feedback session took place facilitated by the Chairman.

**10. QUESTIONS**

One question had been received, together with the answer, as set out in paper **(DS/19/05)**. There were no supplementary questions.

**11. THE CLEWER INITIATIVE ON MODERN DAY SLAVERY**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Reverend Kelvin Woolmer (Bedford Deanery) and the Reverend Atalie Gaines (Barnet Deanery) gave a presentation on 'The Clewer Initiative on Modern Day Slavery'.

There was one response received from Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery).

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12.43 pm.