

## **Private & Confidential**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy Dunstable on **SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2019**

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

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Stephen Liley and the Reverend Stephen Holroyd (Sharnbrook 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 15 June 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 Mr Glyn Barker (Director of Finance) to his first Synod meeting. The President particularly expressed good wishes to the Archdeacon of St Albans on his forthcoming retirement.

5. **FORMULA FOR DEANERY SYNOD ELECTIONS 2020**

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 2020.*

***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 each triennium since then.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

## **6. PROCLAMATION OF AMENDING CANON NO. 39**

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the amending of Canon No. 39, which amended Canon B11 (Of Morning and Evening Prayer in parish churches), Canon B14 (Of Holy Communion in parish churches), Canon B14A (Of services in churches and other places of worship), Canon C5 (Of the titles of such as are to be ordained deacons or priests), Canon C8 (Of ministers exercising their ministry), Canon E2 (Of sidesmen or assistants to the churchwardens), Canon E8 (Of the admission and licensing of lay workers) and made other minor amendments to the Canons.

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

## **7. RESTRUCTURING OF LAY MINISTRY TRAINING**

The Director of Mission, on behalf of the Bishop's Council, introduced this item, and with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, the Lay Minister Officer gave a presentation on the Restructuring of Lay Ministry Training.

There were responses from the Reverend Canon Jo Loveridge (Hertford and Ware Deanery); Mrs Sandra North (St Albans Deanery).

The Bishop of Hertford then moved:

"That this Diocesan Synod:

- (a) Acknowledges with gratitude the important contribution that lay people make to the mission and ministry of the Church;
- (b) Supports the proposals for a restructured pattern of lay training, and
- (c) Encourages members of the Diocesan Synod to promote this new training in their parishes, schools and chaplaincies."

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 2 AGAINST

A copy of paper **(DS/19/06)** had been circulated.

## **8. LIVING GOD'S LOVE 2025 – THE 'BIG CONVERSATION'**

The Bishop of Bedford, and with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Reverend Tim Wilson (Diocesan Big Conversation Enabler) gave a short update on Living God's Love 2025 which included a short video entitled "A church for all generations".

A response was received from Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery).

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

## **9. STIPEND LEVELS FOR 2020/21 AND DIOCESAN COMMON FUND BUDGET 2020**

Mr Colin Bird, Chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, gave a presentation.

Questions were received the Reverend Charles Hudson (Cheshunt Deanery); the Reverend Canon Jo Loveridge (Hertford and Ware Deanery).

Mr Colin Bird responded to the question from the Reverend Charles Hudson and the Bishop of St Albans responded to the question from the Reverend Canon Jo Loveridge.

On behalf of the Board and at the request of the Bishop's Council, Mr Colin Bird moved:

*"This Synod, noting the recommendation from the Central Stipends Authority that the stipend for this diocese be increased by 2% from 1 April 2020, resolves that the stipends for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this diocese should rise by £549 (2% of £27,438) to £27,987 from 1 April 2020."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 1 AGAINST and 1 ABSTENTION

Mr Colin Bird, then moved:

*"That the estimates of requirements of the Diocesan Common Fund in 2020 in the gross sum of £16,466,000 be approved, and that the Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in accordance therewith a sum not exceeding £16,466,000 and that the sum of £14,052,000 be requested as parochial contributions in 2020, to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED WITH 2 AGAINST.

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

A copy of the 2020 Budget **(DS/19/07)** and Notes **(DS/19/08)** had been circulated.

## **10. QUESTIONS**

Two questions had been received, as set out in paper **(DS/19/09)**. The answer to Question 1 was tabled at Synod in a Second Notice Paper **(DS/19/09b)**. The answer to Question 2 was given orally by the Bishop of Hertford.

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

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

**11. 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – THE SCIENCE, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES'**

The Director of Ministry introduced this item and the Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman (Bedford Deanery) and the Reverend Fiona Gibson (Biggleswade Deanery) gave a presentation on 'Artificial Intelligence – the Science, Opportunities and Challenges'.

Questions were received from Dr Sue Richards (Bedford Deanery), Mrs Kerry Smith (Dunstable Deanery). The Director of Ministry responded.

Paper **(DS/19/10)** had been circulated.

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