

## **Private & Confidential**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held via ZOOM on **SATURDAY 13 MARCH 2021**

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

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Canon Lynda Klimas and the Reverend Caren Topley (Rural Dean and Assistant Rural Dean of Ampthill & Shefford 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:  
<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/bishop-of-st-albans-sermons/>.

3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 17 October 2020, 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.

5. **PROCLAMATION OF AMENDING CANON Nos. 40 and 41**

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed Amending Canons Nos. 40 and 41.

Details were available on the Diocesan Synod webpage.

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

6. **COVENANT FOR CLERGY CARE AND WELLBEING – UPDATE**

Paper **(DS/21/01)** had been circulated.

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Director of Mission and Ministry, gave a presentation on how it was proposed that the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing would be adopted and implemented to promote clergy wellbeing. The Archdeacon of Bedford and the Reverend Ysmena Pentelow gave a brief update and the Bishop of Hertford concluded the presentations.

There were questions from Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery); the Reverend Canon Elizabeth Hughes (Luton Deanery); the Reverend Canon Dr Tim Bull (Director of Vocations); Mr Robin Davis (Watford Deanery); Mrs Sheila Bissell (Bedford Deanery); the Reverend Richard Banham (Wheathampstead Deanery); the Reverend Kelvin Woolmer (Bedford Deanery); Mr Colin Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery); Mrs Janet Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery); Mr Ian Douglas (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery); the Reverend Linda Williams (Wheathampstead Deanery).

The Bishop of Hertford, the Director of Mission and Ministry, the Archdeacon of Bedford and Mrs Suzanne Clackson (Clergy Counsellor – Visitor) responded.

The Bishop of Hertford, on behalf of the Board for Mission and Ministry, then moved:

“That this Synod:

- 1) Calls for the ongoing development and implementation within this diocese of measures, including those set out in Paper **(DS/21/01)**, to promote clergy wellbeing, and the adoption of the Covenant.
- 2) Encourages the Bishop’s Council formally to establish a Diocesan Wellbeing Group, to include within its remit the wellbeing of all engaged in ministry, both lay and ordained, and to support, enable and report on the implementation of this work.”

There were further responses from the Reverend David Kesterton (Rural Dean - Luton Deanery); the Reverend Richard Banham (Wheathampstead Deanery); Mrs Suzanne Clackson (Clergy Counsellor -Visitor); Mrs Jo Brooks (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery); the Reverend Luke Larner (Bedford Deanery); Mr Michael Taylor (Hitchin Deanery); Mr Nick Salisbury (St Albans Deanery).

The Bishop of Hertford responded.

Part 1 of the Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

Part 2 of the Motion was PUT and CARRIED with ONE abstention.

## **7. UPDATE ON GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS**

On behalf of the Bishop’s Council, Mr Tim Fleming (General Synod, St Albans Deanery) gave an update on the General Synod Elections 2021.

Following the update from Mr Tim Fleming, the Diocesan Secretary shared the provisional timetable for these elections with Synod members.

*Chair: The Reverend Canon Richard Hibbert, Chair of the House of Clergy, assumed the Chair.*

## **8. PRESENTATIONS OF ANNUAL REPORTS 2019**

The Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and with the Chairman’s permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Chair of the Board of Patronage,

presented their reports for 2019 (postponed from 2020).

There was one response on the Diocesan Advisory Committee report from Mr Wayne Sime (Stevenage Deanery).

[The Reports of the Boards and Committees can be found on the Diocesan website at: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/17-october-2020/>.

## **9. QUESTIONS**

Two questions had been received, together with the answers, as set out in paper **(DS/21/02)**.

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

## **10. DEVELOPMENT OF DIOCESAN YOUTH STRATEGY**

Papers **(DS/21/03)** and **(DS/21/04)** had been circulated.

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, the Director of Mission and Ministry introduced Dr Lucie Shuker (Director of Research – Youthscape) and Christian Cole (Diocesan Youth Mission Enabler), who, with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, gave presentations on the Development of the Diocesan Youth Strategy.

Synod members were asked to reflect on the following three questions in Breakout Rooms:

- (1) What are the strengths of the suggested strategy areas?
- (2) What may be missing from this proposal?
- (3) What does the Diocese need to do to get behind and resource a new youth strategy?

There were comments and questions from the Reverend Mary Fane de Salis (Hitchin Deanery); Mrs Kerry Smith (Dunstable Deanery); the Reverend Ysmena Pentelow (Hertford & Ware Deanery); Mrs Janet Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery); the Reverend Canon Kevin Goss (General Synod, Bedford Deanery).

The Director of Mission and Ministry and the Diocesan Youth Mission Enabler thanked members for their contributions which would be taken into account in the development of the strategy.

## **11. SCHEME FOR REPRESENTATION FOR CATHEDRAL CLERGY ON ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD**

Paper **(DS/21/05)** had been circulated.

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, Canon Peter Adams (Chair of the House of Laity) introduced the Scheme for Cathedral Clergy Representation on St Albans Deanery Synod, and then moved:

“That this Synod:

Approves and makes the Scheme for Representation for Cathedral Clergy on St Albans Deanery Synod in the form set out in (**DS/21/05**) pursuant to rule 23 of the Church Representation Rules”.

There was a response from the Reverend Canon Dr Tim Bull (Director of Vocations).

Canon Peter Adams responded.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 9 against and 28 abstentions.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12.22 pm.