

Private & Confidential

MINUTES of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy Dunstable on **SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER 2021**

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 St Albans presided.

The Synod convened at 10.30 am with the Bishop of St Albans in the Chair.

1. ELECTIONS

The Venerable Janet Mackenzie Archdeacon of Hertford announced that the Reverend Canon Richard Hibbert had been elected as Chairman of the House of Clergy and Clerical Vice-President of the Synod. Mr Colin Bird announced that Canon Peter Adams had been elected as Chairman of the House of Laity and Lay Vice-President of the Synod.

2. WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The President thanked Canon Susan Pope for all her hard work over 20 years of service to the Diocese of St Albans. Canon Pope responded and thanked the Bishops', members of Clergy and Laity, and gave special thanks to the staff at Holywell Lodge and in particular, congratulated the IT Team, for all their work during Lockdown.

The President welcomed Ms Patti Williamson (St Albans Registry) and Mr David White (Diocesan Secretary) to the Synod meeting.

The President noted those people who had recently been elected to General Synod, joined or left the Diocese, taken up new roles within the Diocese, retired or died.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 12 June 2021, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the President.

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

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

Mr Tim Fleming (Wheathampstead Deanery) gave a short overview on the workings of the Diocesan Synod for new members.

A question was received from the Reverend Kaushal David (Dunstable Deanery)

6. ADOPTION OF A SCHEME UNDER THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION MEASURE 2021

Papers **(DS/21/12)** and **(DS/21/13)** had been circulated.

The Bishop of St Albans introduced this item, and the Bishop of Bedford, and with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Director of Education, briefed Synod on the potential impact of the new Scheme.

A Question was received from Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery) and the Director of Education responded.

The Bishop of St Albans, with the consent of the Diocesan Board of Education, moved:

"That this Synod resolves:

1. *To approve the form of draft Scheme before it (which would designate The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance as the Diocesan Board of Education of the Diocese of St Albans) in accordance with the proposal submitted by the Bishop of St Albans with the consent of the current Diocesan Board of Education.*
2. *That it is ready to make the Scheme, conditional on it being certified by the Archbishops' Council in accordance with s.23(1) of the Measure and that the Scheme will come into effect on the date specified in the certificate.*
3. *To authorise the submission to the Archbishops' Council of that draft Scheme and to request that the Bishop and Director of Education take such other steps as are necessary in connection with this process."*

Responses were received from Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery); Mrs Cathy Honeyman (Watford Deanery).

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

7. 'LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE, MISSION ORIENTATED, KINGDOM FOCUSED'

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Director of Ministry introduced the following question which was discussed by Synod members over the lunch break:

"In light of the diocesan priorities how can Diocesan Synod help these to gain traction across the diocese?"

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

8. 'LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE, MISSION ORIENTATED, KINGDOM FOCUSED'

Following the extended Lunch Break and Round Table discussion, the Chairman facilitated a brief Feedback Session.

Feedback was received from Mrs Janet Bird (Hertford & Ware Deanery); Mrs Chris Stevens (Bedford Deanery); Mr Glyn Barker (Hertford & Ware Deanery); the Reverend Vanessa Kerswill (Watford Deanery); the Archdeacon of St Albans; the Reverend Tim Wilson (Sharnbrook Deanery); Ms Wendy Jones (Bedford Deanery); the Reverend John Hookway (Hertford & Ware Deanery); the Archdeacon of Hertford; the Archdeacon of Bedford; Mrs Tricia Humber (Dunstable Deanery); the Reverend David Kesterton (Luton Deanery).

The Director of Mission and Ministry responded.

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

9. QUESTIONS

No questions were received.

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

10. STIPEND LEVELS FOR 2022/23 AND DIOCESAN COMMON FUND BUDGET 2022

Paper **(DS/21/14)** 'The Note to the 2022 Budget' had been circulated.

Mr Colin Bird, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, and, with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, Mr Glyn Barker, Diocesan Director of Finance, gave a presentation.

Mr Bird then moved on behalf of the Board and at the request of the Bishop's Council:

"This Synod, NOTING the recommendation from the Central Stipends Authority that the stipend for this diocese be increased by 1% from 1 April 2022, RESOLVES that the stipends for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this diocese should rise by £280 (1% of £27,987) to £28,267 from 1st April 2022."

Questions were received from the Reverend Canon Dr Peter Ackroyd (Bedford Deanery); the Reverend Kaushal David (Dunstable Deanery); Mr Ian Douglas (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery).

Mr Bird and Mr Barker responded.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 1 AGAINST.

A further response was received from Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery).

Mr Colin Bird then moved:

"That the estimates of requirements of the Diocesan Common Fund in 2022 in the gross sum of £15,979,946 be approved, and that the Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in accordance therewith a sum not exceeding £15,979,946 and that the sum of £14,000,000 be requested as parochial contributions in 2022, to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme."

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 2 ABSTENTIONS.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked Father Richard Watson 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 2.07 pm.