

Private & Confidential

MINUTES of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held via ZOOM on **SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2024**

The Synod convened at 0930 with the Bishop of St Albans in the Chair.

PRAYERS were led by reader Kerry Smith of Dunstable Deanery.

1. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Bishop of St Albans addressed the Synod, and a copy of his Address is attached to the original Minutes. The Address may be found on the Diocesan website [here](#).

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 9 March 2024, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed. A copy would be signed by the Bishop of St Albans at the next in-person meeting.

The Minutes were accepted.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BUSINESS ITEMS

Bishop Alan noted those people who had recently joined or left the Diocese, taken up new roles within the Diocese, retired or died.

4. PROMULGATION OF AMENDING CANON NO. 43

With the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4 the Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the Amending Canon No. 43 (miscellaneous provisions) as an Act of Synod. Paper **DS/24/03** had been circulated.

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

5. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, 2023

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Diocesan Secretary introduced the annual reports. Paper **DS/24/04** had been circulated. A response was received from Ysmena Pentelow, Hatfield & Ware Deanery. The Chair thanked those who had produced the reports.

It was then moved from the Chair *"That the Annual Reports of the Boards and Committees of the Diocese for 2023 be now received"*.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

6. **DBF ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023**

With the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4, Dr Tim Coulson, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, introduced the report. A filmed presentation **DS/24/05** and paper **DS/24/06** had been circulated. There were no questions about the report. Dr Coulson thanked those officers who had produced the reports and then moved on behalf of the Board: *"That the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the Year 2023 be now received."*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

7. **DIOCESAN SUPPORT FOR THE PROMOTION OF GIVING IN PARISHES**

With the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4 the Diocesan Giving Advisor gave a presentation. Responses were received from Kirsty Wainwright, Buntingford Deanery; Jane Banister, Berkhamsted Deanery and Jo Kelly-Moore, St Albans Deanery.

8. **CLERGY WELLBEING – STIPENDS, PENSIONS, HOUSING AND RETIREMENT HOUSING**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council the Revd Canon Will Gibbs introduced this item and with the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4 the Diocesan Secretary gave a presentation.

Synod members met in breakout groups for discussion and feedback was requested to be given to the Diocesan Secretary by e-mail.

Chair: Reverend William Gibbs, Chair of the House of Clergy, assumed the Chair

9. **GROWING YOUNGER AND MORE DIVERSE**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council the Bishop of Hertford introduced this item and with the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4 the Strategic Programme Manager gave an update. Responses were received from Alec Corio, Barnet Deanery and James Sawyer, Buntingford Deanery.

10. **GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Diocesan Secretary introduced this item. Paper (**DS/24/07**) had been circulated. Responses were received from Isaac Pain, Bedford Deanery; Chris Kilgour, Cheshunt Deanery; Ysmena Pentelow, Hertford & Ware Deanery; Kate Pearson, St Albans Deanery; Jo Kelly-Moore, St Albans Deanery and Nigel Challis, Rickmansworth Deanery.

It was then moved from the Chair *"That this Synod approves the formation of a Nominations Committee with a constitution as noted in paper DS/24/07"*. A response was received from Kaushal David, Dunstable Deanery.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 47 in favour, 10 against and 17 abstentions.

11. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Diocesan Secretary introduced this item. Paper (DS/24/08) had been circulated. No responses were received.

It was then moved from the Chair *"That this Synod approves the amendments to their standing orders as noted in as noted in paper DS/24/08, to take effect from the start of the new triennium on 1 August 2024"*.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 71 in favour, none against and 2 abstentions.

12. CHAPLAINCIES WITHIN THE DIOCESE

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Archdeacon of St Albans introduced in person and recorded presentations from a number of Chaplains.

Synod members met in breakout groups for discussion and feedback was requested to be given to the Diocesan Secretary by e-mail.

It was noted that the slides and videos from the presentations given during Synod would be added to the papers on the website page for this meeting.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12:25.