

Private & Confidential

MINUTES of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held via ZOOM on **SATURDAY 12 JUNE 2021**

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

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Simon Cutmore (Rural Dean Rickmansworth).

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 13 March 2021, 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, and in particular, congratulated Professor Helen Atkinson who has been made a Dame in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 for services to engineering and education.

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

5. **DIOCESAN SCHEME FOR THE INSPECTION OF CHURCHES**

Papers **(DS/21/06)** 'St Albans Diocesan Scheme for the Inspection of Churches' and **(DS/21/07)** 'Briefing Paper' had been circulated.

Dr Christopher Green, Chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, presented an updated Diocesan Scheme for the Inspection of Churches.

There were comments and questions from Dr Jacob Kurien (Barnet Deanery); Mr David Lambert (Bedford Deanery); the Reverend Kaushal David (Dunstable Deanery).

Dr Green responded, and then moved:

*"That the Diocesan Scheme for the Inspection of Churches as set out in Paper **DS/21/06** be approved to come into operation with immediate effect".*

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with ONE abstention.

6. **'EMERGING HOPEFULLY FROM LOCKDOWN'**

Paper **(DS/21/08)** 'Emerging Hopefully from Lockdown' had been circulated.

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop of St Albans introduced this item.

The Director of Mission and Ministry introduced, with the Chairman's Permission under Standing Order No 4, the Reverend Caroline Keightley (St Albans Deanery) and the Reverend Paola de Leo (Sharnbrook Deanery) who reflected and shared their Lockdown experiences.

The Deputy Director of Mission and Ministry, with the Chairman's Permission under Standing Order No 4, shared a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Why Write a MAP'.

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

- (i) As we seek to discern a renewed sense of God's purpose for us, how can we improve the use and quality of Mission Action Plans so that we are better equipped for the journey?
- (ii) What key step will you take to act on this?

Feedback was received from the Reverend Canon Dr Tim Bull (Director of Vocations); Canon Peter Adams (Luton Deanery); Dr Mark Eaton (Buntingford Deanery); Mr Glyn Barker (Director of Finance); Mrs Janet Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery); Mrs Sue Pearce (Hitchin Deanery); the Reverend Mark Dunstan (Hertford and Ware Deanery); Mrs Jane Gogarty (Biggleswade Deanery).

The Bishop of Hertford concluded the item. The Bishop of Bedford thanked Synod members for their contributions.

7. QUESTIONS

No questions were received.

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

8. ANNUAL REPORTS 2020

Paper **(DS/21/09)** 'Annual reports of Diocesan Boards and Committees 2020' had been circulated.

Presentations were given on the reports from the Board of Education (The Bishop of Bedford, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education and the Director of Education), and the Verulam House Fund Trust (The Reverend Will Gibbs, Chair of the VHFT).

There were questions and comments from the Reverend Peter Kay (General Synod, Sharnbrook Deanery); the Reverend Kaushal David (Dunstable Deanery).

The Director of Education responded on behalf of the Board of Education.

The Chairman then moved:

"That the Annual Reports of the Boards and Committees of the Diocese for 2020 be now received."

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with ONE against.

9. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE FOR 2020

Paper **(DS/21/10)** 'The Report and Accounts for 2020' had been circulated.

Mr Colin Bird, Chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, and with the Chairman's Permission under Standing Order No 4, the Director of Finance, presented the Report and Accounts of the Diocesan Board of Finance for 2020 and gave an update on the current financial position.

There were questions and responses from the Reverend Kaushal David (Dunstable Deanery); Mr Wayne Sime (Stevenage Deanery); the Reverend Canon Richard Hibbert (Bedford Deanery); Mr Ian Douglas (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery); Mrs Sue Pearce (Hitchin Deanery); the Reverend Ysmena Pentelow (Hertford and Ware).

The Chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, the Director of Finance, the Diocesan Secretary and the Bishop of Hertford responded.

Mr Colin Bird then moved:

"That the Report and Accounts of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for the year 2020 be now received."

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with ONE abstention.

N.B. The full financial statements including the Diocesan Pastoral Account are available in paper format upon request to the Diocesan Office (please contact Ruth Carl: diosecpa@stalbans.anglican.org). [The full financial statements have been audited by Buzzacott LLP and their audit opinion on those accounts is unqualified. The full accounts were approved by the Diocesan Board of Finance on Monday 17 May 2021 and have been filed with Companies House and the Charity Commission in accordance with the required deadlines.]

10. 'LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH – THE PROCESS'

Paper **(DS/21/11)** 'Living in Love and Faith – the Process' had been circulated.

The Reverend Will Gibbs (Wheathampstead Deanery) gave a short presentation on 'Living in Love and Faith – the Process'.

There were questions from the Reverend Canon Kevin Goss (General Synod, Bedford Deanery); Mr Robin Davis (Watford Deanery); the Reverend Dave Brown (Stevenage Deanery); Mrs Sheila Bissell (Bedford Deanery).

The Reverend Will Gibbs responded.

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