

## **Private & Confidential**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD** held at All Saints Academy Dunstable on **SATURDAY 12 MARCH 2022**

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

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Reverend Stefan Chrysostomou (Barnet Deanery).

2. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHAIR OF HOUSE OF CLERGY**

The Diocesan Secretary announced that the Reverend Will Gibbs had been elected as Chairman of the House of Clergy and Clerical Vice-President of the Synod.

3. **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/>.

4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 16 October 2021, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the President.

The Bishop of Hertford addressed the Synod with an update on the Ukrainian crisis, and the link to the bulletin may be found on the Diocesan website:  
<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Ukraine-Update-March-Synod.pdf>

5. **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.

6. **PROCLAMATION OF THE VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES REGULATIONS 1993, AS AMENDED**

The Diocesan Secretary proclaimed the Vacancy in See Committees Regulations 1993, as amended, as an Act of Synod.

Details were available on the Diocesan Synod webpage.

A copy of paper **(DS/22/01)** had been circulated.

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

7. **RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop of Bedford introduced this item, and with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, the Reverend Jo Burke (Chair of the Racial Justice Action Group) and the Reverend Jairo Nyaongo (Bishop's Adviser for Minority Ethnic Concerns) presented the findings of the Three Year Action Plan.

Responses were received from: the Reverend Richard Banham (Wheathampstead Deanery); the Bishop of Hertford (Chair of Board for Mission and Ministry); the Reverend David Kesterton (Area Dean Luton Deanery); Mrs Maureen Phillips (Hitchin Deanery); Mrs Becky Mynett (General Synod); Mr Clive Bell (Stevenage Deanery, Reader); the Reverend Deborah Snowball (Rickmansworth Deanery); the Reverend Isaac Pain (Bedford Deanery); Mrs Janet Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery).

The Bishop of Bedford and the Reverend Jo Burke and the Reverend Jairo Nyaongo responded.

The Bishop of Bedford then moved:

"That this Synod affirms that the Diocese of St Albans is committed to becoming a family of churches, schools and chaplaincies within which all can flourish. Within this we are committed to advancing the participation of those from ethnic minorities; to making sure that their voice is fully heard; to becoming a Diocese that fully reflects the diversity of its population, ensures that clergy and laity of any background can minister anywhere in the Diocese without unlawful discrimination or hinderance and which:

- Celebrates as a gift from God the contribution of all in our Diocese, including especially those from UK Minority Ethnic Communities;
- Invites all churches, schools and chaplaincies to place racial justice at the heart of their mission;
- Welcomes the work of the Diocesan Racial Justice Action Group and supports them as they take forward their three year Action Plan;
- Calls on all involved in clergy and lay appointments to ensure that they are trained in unconscious bias and safer recruitment".

There were further responses from the Bishop of Bedford, the Reverend Jo Burke and the Reverend Jairo Nyaongo.

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED unanimously.

A copy of papers **(DS/22/02a and DS/22/02b)** had been circulated.

## **8. UPDATE ON LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH**

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

Synod members reflected on the following three questions over the Coffee Break and completed the provided feedback sheet.

- 1) What has been good about the Living in Love and Faith resources and experience?
- 2) How can the LLF journey help us as a Diocese to tackle difficult conversations?
- 3) What would you like to see come next out of Living in Love and Faith?

*Chair: The Reverend Will Gibbs, Chair of the House of Clergy, assumed the Chair.*

## **9. ENVIRONMENT POLICY INCLUDING CARBON NET ZERO IN THE DIOCESE**

The Bishop of Hertford introduced this item and, with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No.4, Mrs Rachel Johnston (Diocesan Environment Officer) and Mr David Lambert (Chair of the Diocesan Environment Group) gave brief presentations on the Environment Policy.

Responses were received from: Mr Colin Bird (Hertford and Ware Deanery, DBF Chair); the Reverend James Sawyer (Buntingford Deanery); the Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman (Area Dean Bedford Deanery); Mrs Sheila Bissell (Bedford Deanery, General Synod); the Reverend Dr Alec Corio (Barnet Deanery).

A copy of paper **(DS/22/03)** had been circulated.

*Chair: The Bishop of St Albans assumed the Chair.*

## **10. RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: MISSION, MINISTRY AND MONEY**

The Bishop of Bedford introduced this item and the Diocesan Secretary gave a presentation.

Questions were received from the Reverend Lucy Davis (Bedford Deanery); the Reverend David Brown (Stevenage Deanery).

The Bishop of Hertford and the Archdeacon of St Albans gave a brief presentation on 'Growing Membership of God's Church'.

Synod members discussed the following two questions in Groups and completed a feedback sheet.

- 1) 'Focus on Growing God's Church' what is helping where you are? What other ideas do you have?
- 2) With all this information as background, what has worked where you are?

Questions and comments were received from: the Reverend Isaac Pain (Bedford Deanery); Mrs Kerry Smith (Dunstable Deanery); the Reverend Ysmena Pentelow (Hertford and Ware Deanery); Mrs Becky Mynett (General Synod); the Reverend Canon Lynda Klimas (Ampthill and Shefford Deanery); the Reverend Canon Teresa Wynne (Cheshunt Deanery); the Reverend Stefan Chrysostomou (Barnet Deanery); the Reverend Deborah Snowball (Rickmansworth Deanery); the Reverend Jon Stevens (Watford Deanery); Miss Cathy Honeyman (Watford Deanery).

A copy of paper **(DS/22/04)** had been circulated.

The Bishop of St Albans thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 1255.