



THE DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 16 March 2019 at the Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket.

Present:

- House of Bishops: Bishop Martin Seeley, Bishop Mike Harrison
Archdeacons: Archdeacon David Jenkins (Sudbury)
House of Clergy: 43 Members of the House (17 apologies)
House of Laity: 56 Members of the House (8 apologies)
Ex-officio: 13 Ex-officio Members (4 apologies)

In Attendance:

The Diocesan Registrar, the Diocesan Secretary and 11 members of staff and 1 visitor.

Revd Sharon Potter, Chair of House of Clergy, in the Chair

Table with 2 columns: Time/ID and Description. Rows include: Revd Sharon Potter welcomed all new members...; 19.01 MINISTRY OF THE WORD; 19.02 WELCOME & PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS; 19.03 DISCUSSION PIECE – SYNOD PRIORITIES.

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| | <p>To ensure that Synod remains integral to the strategic decision making [of the DBF], we have established four focus groups, one for each of the four categories mentioned above. Each group has a convener and not expected to meet more than twice between Synods to take the priorities forward and feedback at each Diocesan Synod. Members were asked to nominate themselves if they felt so called, for one of the focus groups. The membership of these four groups will be as equitable as possible, and those selected informed directly.</p> <p>The conveners for each group are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Ourselves (Ian Wigston, Sudbury deanery) • Tell Our Story (Tom McKenny, Clare deanery) • Outward Focussed (Revd Carol Mansell, Ipswich deanery) • Be Political (Revd Tony Redman, Ixworth deanery) <p>Each group would also have a link person from the DBF or Bishops Office.</p> <p>Strategic Development Funding (SDF) Update Bishop Mike reminded Synod members that the diocese has received funding of £4.95m over six years, to be invested in two projects, Inspiring Ipswich (led by Archdeacon-designate Rhiannon King, due to start in April), and Growing in God in the Countryside (led by Archdeacon Sally Gaze). There are several further posts to be appointed to these projects. It was reiterated that the funding is specifically for the purposes as laid out in the application ie not a sum of money for parishes to apply for.</p> |
| <p>19.04</p> | <p>2018 AMENDMENTS TO THE MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE</p> <p>Archdeacon David gave a presentation on the Mission and Pastoral (Amendment) Measure 2018. This is a measure passed by General Synod to amend and simplify certain provisions of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 and the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Slides can be found on the website.</p> <p>Sally Wainman (Colneys Deanery), commented that the deanery synods can be poorly attended and what might be the impact of these legislative changes on deanery plans.</p> <p>Archdeacon David responded to say that as part of the deanery planning process, all deaneries are required to have a Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee which will work on deanery plans. Deanery plans must be approved by the Deanery Synod before going to the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee.</p> |
| <p>19.05</p> | <p>NOTICES - PART I</p> |
| <p>19.05.1</p> | <p>Thy Kingdom Come (30 May – 9 June) – Archdeacon Sally, Rural Mission A video was shown to encourage members to join in the week-long national event focussed on prayer that is taking place on 30 May – 9 June. The video can be found on the website. Many resources exist to assist parishes to join in this event.</p> |
| <p>19.05.2</p> | <p>Lent Appeal – Bishop Mike This year funds raised will go to Kagera, with the aim helping farmers survive climate change, assist priests out of poverty and help young people to build a better future for themselves.</p> |

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| <p>19.05.3</p> | <p>Ipswich Night Shelter – Dawn Gillett, Head of Property and Diocesan Surveyor The Ipswich Night Shelter used the St Nicholas Centre as a base from October 2018 to 2 January 2019. It has been very successful, hosting 32 people. Of these, 14 have now secured supported housing, one has had much needed surgery, and all have enjoyed warm hospitality.</p> <p>The Shelter has now secured extra funding which has resulted in a further use of the St Nicholas Centre for 3-4 weeks.</p> |
| <p>19.05.4</p> | <p>Environment Update – Revd Canon Sandie Barton, Diocesan Environment Officer Sandie reminded Synod that the updated Environment Policy was launched a year ago. As part of this, Diocesan Synod pledged its willingness to work towards gaining a Bronze Eco Diocese Award.</p> <p>Sandie reported that the diocese has just recently achieved this Bronze Eco Diocese Award, with 57 churches registered, 24 of which have achieved their own Bronze award. Members were encouraged to maintain and/or step up their efforts for the diocese to work towards a Silver Award.</p> |
| <p>19.06</p> | <p>APPROVE MINOR CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS OF HOUSES OF CLERGY AND LAITY</p> <p>The Standing Orders for each of the House of Clergy and Laity have been reviewed, resulting in some suggested and very minor amendments. Bishop’s Council recommends their approval.</p> <p>Chair of the House of Clergy, Sharon Potter, moved that: “The House of Clergy approves and adopts the revised Standing Orders as set out in paper DS(19)P06.1”.</p> <p>The House of Clergy voted by show of hands and agreed with an overwhelming majority, with one abstention. The Standing Orders will be published on the website.</p> |
| | <p style="text-align: center;">Tony Allwood, Chair of the House of Laity, in the Chair</p> |
| <p>19.06</p> | <p>APPROVE MINOR CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS OF HOUSES OF CLERGY AND LAITY</p> <p>As in item 19.06 above, Bishop’s Council recommends the approval of the Standing Orders of the House of Laity.</p> <p>Chair of the House of Laity, Tony Allwood, moved that: “The House of Laity approves and adopts the revised Standing Orders as set out in paper DS(19)P06.2”.</p> <p>The House of Laity voted by show of hands and agreed with an overwhelming majority, with two abstentions. The Standing Orders will be published on the website.</p> |

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| <p>19.06A</p> | <p>VOTING PROCEDURES</p> <p>Tony Allwood, Chair of the House of Laity, informed members that going forward, all voting would be carried out in the same manner as General Synod’s voting procedures, ie voting by a show of hands when there is an obvious overwhelming majority, rather than counting and only recording as such.</p> <p>David Lamming (General Synod rep and Sudbury Deanery) disagreed with Tony Allwood’s explanation with regard to General Synod’s process.</p> <p>Revd John Thackray (Ipswich deanery) and David Chambers (Stowmarket deanery) both expressed their disagreement with Tony’s proposal ie not to record abstentions or votes against.</p> <p>Tony Allwood agreed to review his proposal and report back in June.</p> |
| <p>19.07</p> | <p>APPROVAL OF APPROACH TO SECTION 1(2) OF THE DIOCESAN BOARDS OF FINANCE MEASURE 1925</p> <p>The legislation which governs what is expected of the DBF is the 1925 Measure. It has recently been observed that the diocese infringes two provisions within that Measure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum of 75% of the membership of Bishop’s Council should be elected by Diocesan Synod; 2. There should be a majority of lay members of the DBF; <p>Having this matter brought to the attention of the Bishop’s Council, three options were given to deal with the non-compliance, see paper DS(19)P07 for details. It was also noted to Bishop’s Council that under the Archbishop’s legislative reform consultation, the 1925 Measure will be reviewed in the next few years.</p> <p>Taking advice from James Hall, Diocesan Registrar, Bishop’s Council recommends that Synod accepts the situation, noting that it is a live issue and it will be kept under review by the Bishop’s Council.</p> <p>There were no questions to Mr Pendlington, but Mr David Lamming (General Synod and Sudbury Deanery) spoke to explain why he had voted against the proposal when it was discussed at Bishop’s Council on 13 December 2018. He pointed out, first, that currently the clergy were in the majority (10:8) on the DBF and this would become 11:8 after the Archdeacon of Ipswich was collated. His view was that, as an ordered church, we should take the necessary steps to put this right rather than condone the current position. He also referred to the recent consultation by the Legislative Reform Committee of the Archbishops’ Council suggesting that the “highly prescriptive requirements” in section 1(2)(d) of the 1925 Measure could be relaxed by a legislative reform order, enabling a diocese which wished to do so “to constitute its DBF differently to meet its particular circumstances and needs.</p> <p>The Chair of the DBF, Mark Pendlington, moved that:</p> <p>“Having considered DS(19)P07, that this Synod accepts that in the past and currently, the proportion of the members of the DBF who are elected by this Synod, and the ratio of clergy</p> |

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| | <p>members of the Board to lay members, do not comply with the 1925 Diocesan Boards of Finance Measure. Synod shall review the matter after 5 years, or earlier on the recommendation of Bishop's Council".</p> <p>The motion was carried out by a show of hands and agreed with an overwhelming majority.</p> |
| 19.08 | <p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2018, DS(18)M3, were agreed as an accurate record and signed.</p> |
| 19.09 | <p>MINUTES OF THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL</p> <p>The minutes of the two Bishop's Council meetings held on 13 December 2018, BC(18)M6, and the unadopted minutes of the meeting on 14 February 2019, BC(19)M1 were noted.</p> |
| 19.10 | <p>REPORT FROM THE GENERAL SYNOD FEBRUARY 2019</p> <p>The paper DS(19)P10 and a supplementary report regarding motions calling for action or affecting parishes, DS(19)P10A were received.</p> <p>Jasmine Hobbs (Ixworth deanery) asked for clarity about the two-terms limit on lay members serving on a deanery synod contained in the revised Church Representation Rules.</p> <p>David Lamming (General Synod rep) explained that the purpose of the two-term limit was to encourage younger people to stand for election to the deanery synod. David noted that an APCM could vote to disapply the limit (in the same way that a meeting of parishioners can vote to waive the six years' time limit on service as a churchwarden) and the provision was not retrospective, ie it would not 'bite' until 2026, assuming the Measure received Royal Assent later in 2019.</p> |
| 19.11 | <p>MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA</p> <p>No items were received.</p> |
| 19.12 | <p>QUESTIONS</p> <p>The following two questions were received.</p> <p>Mr David Lamming (General Synod and Sudbury Deanery) to ask the Pastoral Secretary:</p> <p>In order to raise awareness among Synod members of the role and significance of the Diocesan Patronage Board, please provide a schedule showing those benefices in the Diocese for which the patronage board is patron (acting either as sole patron or jointly with another or others, and/or taking a turn with another patron or patrons, in presenting an incumbent to a living), indicating also which of those benefices are currently vacant and the number of benefices to which the Board (acting alone or jointly) has presented priests in each of the last three years (2016, 2017 and 2018).</p> <p>Reply from Mr James Halsall, Head of DAC and Pastoral:</p> <p>Please see the schedule that I have produced, DS(19)12 (This document was sent out with the order paper and can be circulated with the minutes).</p> |

David Lamming asked a supplementary question, asking the Diocesan Secretary:

Wanting to raise awareness of the Patronage Board, have the vacancies been filled and is there a need to go to an election?

Reply from Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary:

There will be a contested election to fill the four vacancies on the Diocesan Board of Patronage.

Mr David Lamming (General Synod and Sudbury Deanery) to ask the Head of Safeguarding:

General Synod, in July 2018, passed a motion, by 368 votes in favour with none against and two abstentions, that the Synod, "*recognising that safeguarding is at the heart of Christian mission and the urgent need for the Church of England to continue to become a safer place for all and a refuge for those who suffer abuse in any context: ... (b) endorse as an additional priority the support of safeguarding at parish level to create a safer church for all.*"

During the debate preceding the vote, the Revd Andrew Dotchin said:

"Safeguarding is not something to be seen as a hoop through which to jump but, instead, an opportunity for fulfilling the mission of God. We quite rightly get excited about #NewRebs, Fresh Expressions, Messy Church as proof of new life and growth, but do not talk of safeguarding in the same terms. There is good reason for this as, thus far, our safeguarding track record is nothing about which to boast. This must change.

"We need to see how safeguarding is at the heart of mission, for it is only when sheep feel safe that they will give birth to lambs. Only when the Church is a safe place to grow will the flock increase, regardless of any other efforts or programmes. We have failed the good shepherd again and again and we stand accused in the same terms as the faithless, self-serving shepherds of Ezekiel 34."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his speech, said: "*The kind of debate we are having here today must happen at diocesan synods and deanery synods and PCCs so that people, when they see the bills, know why they are paying it and why it is essential that it is paid, otherwise it will be seen as coming from on high rather than being something that should be supported. Andrew Dotchin in his very notable speech a few moments ago was right about the positive attitude that needs to prevail about safeguarding not as simply obeying rules or ticking boxes, but as something that we are deeply and emotionally committed to and that will enable us to find the resources.*"

In the light of the motion agreed by General Synod and the speeches quoted above, would you please inform Synod of the action taken, or being taken, by this diocese to provide support for safeguarding in all our parishes, and the resources being provided for that purpose.

Reply from Gavin Stone, Head of Safeguarding:

Further to the Diocesan Synod adopting "Promoting a Safer Church" at its meeting in November 2017, relevant resources and opportunities for training have been provided. This is expanded upon in item 19.12A.

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| 19.12A | <p>SAFEGUARDING</p> <p>Synod was reminded that as a diocese we are about “promoting a safer church” and the safeguarding team’s role is to help parishes with advice and support, safer recruitment and training. Gavin Stone, Head of Safeguarding made the following points:</p> <p><i>Advice and Support:</i> Dave Butcher is the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. In 2018, 113 referrals were received (varying degrees of seriousness).</p> <p><i>Safer Recruitment</i> – To assist parishes with their responsibility to recruit legally and well, by checking an individual’s suitability notably any criminal convictions or barring decisions where necessary. In 2018, 425 checks were made which reflects the size of our voluntary workforce out in the parishes.</p> <p><i>Training</i> – Craig Hutton is the Safeguarding Trainer and Training Co-ordinator. There were currently 38 volunteer trainers throughout the diocese who help deliver courses. 134 training events were held in 2018, delivered almost 6,000 units of training. The diocese is well above target for training clergy and parish safeguarding officers, although slightly behind target on training for PTOs and Lay Ministers – the four roles considered priorities for training.</p> <p>The national Church has produced a handbook and pocket guide for each parish to take away at the end of the meeting.</p> |
| 19.13 | NOTICES |
| 19.13.1 | <p>Parish Data Including Electoral Roll Reminder – Gavin Stone, Head of Strategy & Comms</p> <p>Gavin thanked all those members representing parishes who have sent their Stats for Mission back to the office – we have received 87% of the whole diocese, with four deaneries having a 100% return rate, Colneys, Saxmundham, Samford and Stowmarket.</p> <p>Gavin reminded Synod that 2019 is the six-yearly renewal of the Electoral Roll. Results must be with the Diocesan Office by 1 June 2019. Digital signatures can now be accepted.</p> |
| 19.13.2 | <p>Suffolk Show – Revd Dave Gardner, Director of Mission & Ministry</p> <p>This year the diocesan marquee will be based around a large-scale café style church, a great opportunity to be outward focussed, to network, to listen to the needs of Suffolk over refreshments. Everyone was warmly invited.</p> |

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| 19.13.3 | <p>2018 Parish Share Outcome 2018 – Gary Peverley, Finance Director</p> <p>A big thank you was given to all deaneries for the parish share income for 2018. The hard work is appreciated, and the result was £6,353k, slightly higher than 2017. However, in context, the result is around 90% of the amount requested for Parish Share. We appreciate the huge efforts made and members were asked to feedback to parishes our thanks and encourage to keep up the good work.</p> <p>The diocese recognises that there is a shared responsibility to achieve a break even position and that parish share is important but not the only solution to the financial challenges we face, and we continue to look at other ways to maximise income and effectively manage all of our costs.</p> |
| 19.13.4 | <p>Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) update – Gary Peverley, Finance Director</p> <p>105 parishes are now registered on the PGS scheme with over 500 donors, an excellent achievement. Since launching PGS in January 2018, over £375k has been remitted back to parishes. Over 60% of donors have registered for an automatic inflationary uplift in their giving on an annual basis.</p> <p>Julie Podd, the PGS Administrator, financed by the national church, is working for the diocese for up to a further 12 months and Parishes were urged to make use of her whilst she is here to support us.</p> |
| 19.13.5 | <p>SSM Fees – Gary Peverley, Finance Director</p> <p>Last year the issue of SSM fees was raised. It has taken some time to come back with a proposal. Options are being considered and thanks was passed to Revd Tony Redman for the work he has supported us with. The current position is due to go to Bishop’s Staff in March or April. Once a way forward is agreed, it will come back to Synod with the outcome, hopefully in June.</p> |
| 19.13.6 | <p>Serious Incident Reporting new requirement – Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary</p> <p>The Charities Commission has guidance on how charities, including PCCs, should report serious incidents, both of a safeguarding nature and other (fraud etc). They have issued new guidance effective from 2 January 2019 and the national church has been working with the Charities Commission to issue diocesan wide guidance. This guidance will be issued in the near future.</p> |
| 19.13.7 | <p>Cathedral Millennium 2020 Celebrations – Dean Joe Hawes, Dean of St Edmundsbury</p> <p>2020 marks 1,000 years since the Benedictines founded the Abbey. Dean Joe gave an update on the many plans being brought together to celebrate this anniversary throughout the year 2020.</p> <p>Canon Matthew Vernon is leading the planning process and will communicate more fully in the next couple of months.</p> |
| | <p>The meeting concluded with Bishop Martin leading the prayer that the Archbishop of York has written for our parliament at this time of uncertainty with the Brexit process followed by the blessing.</p> |

**The next meeting of the Diocesan Synod will be held at
9.30am, on Saturday 8 June 2019, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds.**