

## ELY DIOCESAN SYNOD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ely Diocesan Synod held in the Main Hall, Over Community Centre on Saturday 9 March 2019, starting at 9am

Opening worship was led by Ven Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge, supported by Lizzie Taylor. Apologies were received from 15 clergy and 15 Laity

### Matters Arising

See of Huntingdon: following the shortlisting meeting four candidates have been selected for interview on 28 and 29 March 2019. Consecration will be on 3 July at St Paul's Cathedral. A public announcement will be made shortly.

Matter raised under Standing Order 41: The Revd David Cleugh relating to the Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry, asking whether there would be a report back to Synod regarding the use of the data collected to all the Diocesan Office to better target resources. Mr Cleugh was assured that there would be report to the Autumn Synod in October 2019. Mr Cleugh raised a supplementary question in connection with quantitative analysis training.

Canon Janet Perrett delivered her report from General Synod, with a request for those present to consider election to General Synod at the end of the current five-year term (2020). 4 members of the clergy and 3 lay members are currently elected.

Bishop's Council report: Revd David Cleugh requested clarification on the numbers of school students in the Diocese and it was agreed that the figure incorrectly reported in Paper B should read 15,000 students.

Raising the Spiritual Temperature: Bishop Stephen delivered his Presidential Address (attached) and then invited the Ven Alex Hughes and Revd Canon Linda Church (LC) to lead a table discussion using the following two questions:

What raises your spiritual temperature?

What would a "spiritual thermometer" look like?

Linda Church then brought Synod's attention to what has happened in the Diocese so far and gave suggestions as to what can be done next.

Adam Evans, Strategic Programme Manager, introduced the ELY2025 Growth Fund and spoke to his presentation about the Fund's aims and objectives and demonstrated the progress of the funds so far allocated to parishes and Deaneries. The Revd Canon Mike Booker reported on the progress of the Changing Market Towns, its appointments and evident impact, introducing the new Schools Singing Project concept. This was followed by Martin Kenward, who delivered a presentation on the positive impact of the Parish Giving Scheme and the introduction of digital card readers.

Paul Evans advised Synod of two proposals: the first being the commissioning of Judge Business School for a further survey on the effects of ELY2025 which will be carried out in 2020, and the second being the Diocese's provision of an appropriate digital card reader for each parish (where the parish will be responsible for the necessary running costs incurred).

The Ven Alex Hughes explained the background to ELY2025's Sustainable Ministry plans, confirming that there are no cuts planned, that the current levels of headcount will be maintained with neither increase nor decrease in stipendiary clergy numbers. This does not include the anticipated 50% increase in the number of curates (of whom, for the first time, 4 are part-time 0.5 posts)

In order to progress this, it will be necessary to review Deanery Action Plans, most of which are currently out of date.

Synod were invited to take part in a short table discussion followed by Questions and Answers around the motion: **“This Synod requests and requires the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (Bishop’s Council) to plan over the next ten years for a stable headcount of 104 stipendiary ministers (lay and ordained) with permission to vary this figure in the interim to take account of existing post-holders and the need to be proactive in employing ministers for mission in new developments.”**

Proposed: Canon Janet Perrett                      Seconded: Carol Nicholas-Letch  
Passed by a majority with 7 against and 9 abstentions.

Finance: The Revd Canon Brian Atling advised Synod that the 2018 Annual Accounts were being finalised by the new auditors, HaysMacintyre. Once the process has been completed, the 2018 Accounts will be presented to Finance Committee, then to Bishop’s Council and will finally come to Synod. The 2019 budget cycle is in progress with the aim of achieving a balanced budget at year end.

The budget for 2020 is being prepared, having been started in Autumn 2018. It is currently in deficit and will require re-drafting. After further work the proposed budget will be presented to Finance Committee and Bishop’s Council before coming before Synod with Bishop’s Council’s recommendation for approval. The level of Ministry Share is discussed in Deanery Liaison Group before being put before Bishop’s Council and Synod at the Autumn meeting.

Ministry Share 2018 achieved a very commendable 98.7%. Synod passed its thanks to all Deaneries and Parishes for the levels of Ministry Share raised, recognising that there are real and acceptable reasons why some Deaneries were unable to achieve their required figures.

The draft management accounts were circulated. Synod was advised that Bishop’s Council had previously voted that any surplus should be moved to the ELY2025 Growth Fund for disbursement to applicants. There is likely to be a reduction in the anticipated surplus as a result of additional unexpected safeguarding costs

The Chair of House of Laity, Canon Simon Kershaw, sadly announced the death of Philip Reeves, the former homeless person who joined Revd David Kinder in presenting at the October 2017 Synod.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.59pm

**The next meeting** of Diocesan Synod will be held on Wednesday 12 June 2019 in the Needham’s Hall, Ely Community Education, Downham Road, Ely CB6 2SH beginning at 6.30pm with coffee.