

## ELY DIOCESAN SYNOD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ely Diocesan Synod held in the Hayward Theatre, Kings Ely, on 15 October 2022 starting at 9.30am

The meeting opened with Eucharist led by the Bishop of Ely followed by the commissioning of the Revd Dr Julie Norris, Diocesan Director for Lay Ministry, and Michael (Mike) Kelly as Development Officer for Youth and Families.

*Revd Canon Sarah Gower, Chair of the House of Clergy, in the Chair*

1. **Apologies for Absence received** House of Clergy 22 House of Laity 20
2. There being no amendments to the **Minutes** of Diocesan Synod held on 21 June 2022, they were signed by the Chair. There were no **Matters Arising**.
3. **Presidential Address:** The Bishop of Ely advised that the College of Bishops discussions relating to Living in Love and Faith had been delayed following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth, but that these would be taking place before the General Synod (GS) meeting in February 2023 after which GS representatives would report back. The Bishop also introduced the Environment/Net Carbon topics to be presented later in the meeting including the soaring costs of energy and the impact on livelihoods for all. He encouraged all to consider becoming eco-churches which would result in Ely becoming an eco-Diocese. Bishop Stephen closed with a request for all to engage with the Deanery Planning process due for completion through 2023.

A copy may be found of the Diocese of Ely website at <https://www.elydiocese.org/about/news-jobs-and-events/news-and-announcements/news/bishop-stephens-presidential-address.php>

4. The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Ms Rebecca Boswell, presented her regular **Safeguarding Update** to the meeting.

Since the last report to Diocesan Synod, the Church of England has published the Past Cases Review on 5 October 2022. She read from the foreword to the paper which can be found here: [Past Cases Review 2 - National Report.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#)

She reminded Synod members of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard availability - currently 68% of parishes have signed up to this program. Safeguarding training is now mostly available online, with only the senior leadership training being conducted by the Safeguarding Team (363 participants over the previous 12 months). 203 referrals have been received to date, compared with 171 at the same stage in 2021 and 1694 Disclosure and Barring Service checks had been completed (a higher figure due to the renewal period being reduced from 5years to 3years). The Diocese of Ely is one of the first to participate in the National Casework Management System, with online referrals for parishes currently being considered to feed data directly into the system. The Diocese, jointly with the Cathedral, are running National Safeguarding week ending 20 November, which will include services, webinars and workshops.

5. **Bishop's Council Report** from the meeting held on 28 September was presented by the Bishop of Huntingdon on behalf of the Diocesan Secretary, highlighting the planned Church Buildings Trust, further work requirements for the planned Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity paper and two limited tenure clergy posts. There were no questions.

6. **Business of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance:** The outgoing Chair of the Board of Finance, the Revd Canon Brian Atling, presented information on the **Diocesan finances** for the year to date, advising that the Q3 Management Accounts would be prepared at the end of October. He

highlighted that there are funds to offer hardship grants to clergy with further information being available via the Bishop's Office. Budget lines and low performing investments are being reviewed, as is the Diocesan Reserves Policy. A financial audit of diocesan activities is currently being carried out by George Lynn, Chair of the Audit Committee.

The Budget for 2023 reflects the anticipated increase in clergy stipends (calculated and proposed by the central church, for confirmation in December). Ministry Share requests were therefore proposed to be increased to 4%, with the balance being covered by investment income. Budget figures will be closely monitored and reviewed.

The terms of agreement for the Relocation Board are being drawn up and will be prepared for approval by the Bishop's Council

There followed a question and answer session across a range of topics which included increases in departmental salary costs, housing maintenance, investments and the increase in stipends.

Motion A : to approve the Budget for 2023

Proposed: Revd Canon Brian Atling

Seconded: Ven Dr Alex Hughes

Approved by majority (3 against and 14 abstentions)

Motion B: to approve the Ministry Share figures for 2023

Proposed: Revd Canon Brian Atling

Seconded: Revd Becky Dyball

Approved by majority (3 against and 10 abstentions)

Grateful thanks were passed to the outgoing Chair of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance for his commitment and dedication.

Revd Canon Brian Atling gave an update on **Project Lancaster** (relocation of Diocesan Offices from Bishop Woodford House, to Lancaster Way, Witchford) on behalf of Canon Tim Walters, Chair of the Relocation Board, reporting that King's Ely are using part of the building. While EDBF staff continue to work from home, staff members are using the remaining area as a hub for formal and team meetings as and when required.

*Canon Simon Kershaw, Chair of the House of Laity, in the Chair*

7. Geoffrey Hunter, Head of Church Buildings and Pastoral Department, gave a presentation on behalf of the Diocesan Environmental Task Group about the Diocese of Ely plans to work towards **Net Zero Carbon** for 2030, which covered church buildings, cathedrals, schools (a high proportion of the buildings) and parsonages, and includes churchyards and associated land.

8. **General Synod report:** Diocesan representative, Mr Christopher Townsend, presented a summary of the proceedings from the most recent General Synod meeting. He advised that the main topic for discussion at the February meeting would be Living in Love and Faith.

9. **Deanery Synod Elections:** Every parish and Bishop's Mission Order plus Ely Cathedral is entitled to be represented on their Deanery Synod. The election process for the new Deanery Synod members begins with the numbers to be so elected determined by resolution of Diocesan Synod not later than 31 December 2022 (see below). The numbers were approved by a majority.

Number on parish/BMO electoral roll	Deanery Synod Representatives
1-50	1
51-200	2
201 or more	3

The Bishop of Ely closed the meeting with prayer and his blessing at 12.55pm

Dates for 2023 meetings: 11 March (morning) / 14 June (evening) / 14 October (morning)

Synod mins 15102022 D3