

CANTERBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD

A Meeting of the Diocesan Synod was held on Saturday 11th March at The Archbishop's School, Canterbury

9.30 – 12.00 Open Session

12.30 House of Clergy election meeting

12.45pm – 3pm Members only session

Open Session theme: “Seeing the Possibilities: Transformational connections with children and young people, wherever they are”

Welcome: Mr David Elliot – Headteacher Archbishop's School on the school's values of Forgiveness, Perseverance, Hope, Compassion and Wisdom

Opening worship: Led by Revd Dawn Watson Chaplain at Archbishop's School and students from the school's chaplaincy team

Presidential Address: Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin (link)

Presentation: by Ben Hatfield, Children and Young People's Ministry Advisor

 [Youth Synod 2023.pptx](#)

Welcome to The Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral and of Venerable Will Adam, Archdeacon of Canterbury.

Refreshment Break

Presentation continued with group discussions.

LUNCH

House of Clergy election of new Chair of the House of Clergy (following on from Carol Smith pending retirement)

There were two candidates duly nominated and the results were Rev Andy Bawtree 25 votes and Revd Bob Weldon 20 votes. Revd Andy Bawtree was duly elected.

The HoC also confirmed their co-option of Revd Catherine Tucker from the HoC's previous online meeting.

AFTERNOON SESSION for Synod Members

1. **Welcome:** by *Carol Smith Chair of the House of Clergy* who congratulated Rev Andy Bawtree on his election and welcomed Revd Catherine Tucker to her first Synod
2. **Apologies:** *Stephen Taylor, Diocesan Secretary*
There were 16 apologies from the members of the House of Clergy, 15 from the House of Laity and 1 from the House of Bishops

3. Minutes: *Miranda Ford, Chair of the House of Laity*
Minutes of the Diocesan Synod meeting of 15th Nov 2022

In the question at the end of item 8 it was agreed to delete the reply from Stephen

With this correction the mins were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising: *Miranda Ford, Chair of the House of Laity*

Rachel Webbley: Has there been any progress on conversations on Carbon Net Zero with Rochester diocese?

Stephen Taylor: Rochester Diocese have declined to partner with us to share in progressing a CNZ plan so we will progress this on our own. It is possible that in the future Rochester may partner with us.

5. Archbishops' Council: *Miranda Ford, Chair of the House of Laity*

Minutes of the Archbishop's Council meeting of 11 June 2022 received by Diocesan Synod.

Matter arising:

David Kemp – Why have St Faith's Maidstone been offered a loan?

Stephen Taylor: St Faith embarked upon a new build of a community church in Ringlestone at the heart of their housing in the parish. They were on target with their fundraising when Covid hit and costs escalated and the build regime was delayed. They have reapplied for grants with the new cost figures and at the same time secured a loan from the DBF just in case. They applied for the loan in the autumn, and they have not needed it so far.

6. Proposal for Archbishop's Council to Receive the Minutes of Diocesan Synod

David Kemp proposed **"That this Synod asks Archbishop's Council to receive Synod's draft minutes and take up any appropriate actions between Synod meetings"**.

Agreed, one abstention.

David Kemp proposed **"That this Synod asks Archbishop's Council to approve their minutes in time for them to be shared at Synod"**

Agreed, three abstentions.

7. Taking the Strategy Forward – Colin Evans

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Proposal by Bishop Rose:

"That Diocesan Synod adopts the three bold outcomes for 2023:

Doubling the number of Children & young disciples

200 new Christian Communities

Every church, parish and benefice revitalised."

Comments and questions:

- 2030 is too far away
- There isn't enough detail
- I like the simplicity
- How does it link in to our 2030 net zero ambition?

- I value the broad scope so it can be unpacked locally
- If personnel change continuing with a particular plan may be problematical
- To do something in every church is pie in the sky
- We need more clarity to understand what we are agreeing to
- Letting go can be a sign of life
- How do we account for our work in schools?
- How will we use pioneer ministry?
- I like the first two – the 3rd is too vague
- What's not to like about these?
- They're Mother, love and apple pie – it what we all should be about
- They don't go far enough, they're not radical enough, more detail is needed
- Parishes see themselves as sovereign, they will need to agree this for themselves not us for them
- This doesn't deal with church buildings which are a barrier to growth
- This feels like a direction of travel not outcomes
- The third one isn't an outcome
- What is a definition of Christian Community

The motion was put by Bp Rose

We can't vote for the third outcome

The third outcome is unrealisable.

Can we send it back for reconsideration?

Can we vote on each one?

Edward Crossley – proposed an amendment: that we adopt the first outcomes and send the third back for reconsideration by the appropriate body.

Vote clearly carried with three abstentions

The proposal as amended was put to the vote:

Clearly carried with eight against and two abstentions.

David Kemp proposed a follow-on motion:

“The Synod asks Archbishop's Council to bring to the July Synod outline financial plans for the same period to 2030”

Vote clearly carried, six against twenty abstentions.

8. Diocesan Structure – including the Strategic Programme Board

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It was agreed to circulate this slide.

9. General Synod Report

Rachel Webbley on behalf of the General Synod representatives shared her reflections on General Synod in addition to the summery report.

Questions were invited:

Two speeches were attempted to be made which were halted as they did not comply with the procedures.

Q On Living in Love and Faith - What will be the provision for those who disagree with decisions of General Synod?

A It's too early in the process to say what this will be.

Q Was there any discussion about the impact of the proposed LLF on the wider Anglican communion?

Q Was there any discussion about the impact of the proposed PLF on the wider Anglican communion?

Synod was reminded that the 'southern hemisphere' includes parts of the communion such as New Zealand Aotearoa where the Anglican church is progressive in its approach to LGBTQ people.

A Yes, and it was a very moving part of the debate. Please pray for Rt Rev Anthony Poggo, General Secretary of the Anglican Communion, who holds many of the front-line conversations with Anglicans around the world. There is not a homogenous perspective from Africa - for example the Methodist in Nigeria have decided to remain connected to the UK Methodist Church following the latter's decision to allow the marriage same sex couples. It's vital to notice that the voices of gay Christians from many parts of the world are not heard in most debates about this because for many it is too dangerous for them, and they are the most vulnerable in this debate.

10. Buildings for Mission – Ven Darren Miller

Proposal:

- **That the Synod agrees to pursue the establishing of a CBMP (and applies for the £10 of support)**
- **The we agree to open up discussions with Rochester Diocese with a view (if mutually beneficial) to establishing a single CBMP**

Q What will the cost be to the parish – **Ans**, the costs should be no more than they are currently paying with saving on insurance and lower costs on maintenance contracts. This make so much sense

Vote – unanimous

Proposal:

- **That the Synod agrees to apply for a grant for a Church Building Support Officer (CBSO)**
- **That Synod agrees to explore working with Rochester Diocese to apply for two CBSOs**
- **That this Synod approves the exploration of the diocesan contribution towards this post within our existing budget (that wouldn't directly impact on Parish Share)**

Vote – unanimous

Proposal:

- **That this Synod agree to apply for a block grant for minor parish repairs and improvements**
- **To advise our DAC that of the potential of this fund and for them to be aware of the criteria and the need to identify and support parishes.**

Vote – unanimous

11. Martyn's Law – Ven Andrew Sewell

There will be Government anti-terrorism legislation which will require all places where the public could gather in any number, to register and complete an assessment that mitigates them being a target for any terror group. More details will follow and there is nothing to do until you hear from us.

12. Members questions:

David Kemp, General Synod Representative, Reculver Deanery asked the question:

“What is the shortfall on Parish Share for 2022? Could the Synod be provided with a schedule of the deaneries showing, for each Deanery, the amount requested and the amount paid by the end of February 2023, distinguishing between funds provided out of churches' funds and any funds from grants from outside bodies such as the Diocese or the Church Commissioners.”

Answer – [March 2023 - Diocese of Canterbury \(canterburydiocese.org\)](https://www.canterburydiocese.org)

Bishop Rose closed the meeting with a blessing.