



THE DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH
DIOCESAN SYNOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 2 October 2021 over Zoom conference call.

Present:

- House of Bishops: Bishop Martin Seeley, Bishop Mike Harrison
House of Clergy: 40 Members of the House (including 5 ex-officio) (17 apologies)
House of Laity: 45 Members of the House (including 3 ex-officio) (15 apologies)

In Attendance:

The Diocesan Registrar, the Diocesan Secretary, 4 members of staff and 5 visitors.

Synod was preceded by separate meetings of the Houses of Clergy and Laity.

Table with 2 columns and 4 rows. Row 1: WELCOME; Bishop Martin welcomed all members... The results of the two elections... Revd Canon Sharon Potter was elected as Chair of the House of Clergy... Revd Canon Sharon Potter chaired the meeting from this point forward. Row 2: WORSHIP; Dwelling in the Word was led by +Mike. Row 3: 21.24; PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS; Being the first meeting of the new triennium, +Martin reminded members about what Diocesan Synod is; to engage, debate and consider issues of concern for the church.

	<p>within the diocese and wider society. It's also there to advise the Bishop on matters on which he chooses to consult and to discuss matters that it is asked to consider from General Synod and other bodies.</p> <p>The focus of this Synod is to look at our outward engagement in our communities.</p> <p>+Martin informed Synod of Mark Pendlington's wish to step down from his role as Chair of the DBF which he will do when an appropriate replacement has been found. +Martin thanked Mark for his commitment, support and care to the diocese. Mark has challenged the diocese to be appropriately ambitious, and has enabled occasions to listen to voices outside the church to challenge and encourage the mission of the church.</p> <p>Bishop Martin's full address can be found on the website here: https://www.cofesuffolk.org/about-us/diocesan-governance/diocesan-synod/diocesan-synod-october-2021/</p>
<p>21.25</p>	<p>THE FUTURE OF FOCUS GROUPS</p> <p>Revd Canon Sharon Potter reminded Synod of the four workstreams that were set up over the last triennium: understanding who we are, telling our story, being political and outward focussed.</p> <p>It is the intention to continue three of these working streams, together they all contribute to what was the fourth workstream - understanding who we are. There are a number of topics that could be looked at in detail under the themes, such as building on the work around the environment, Black Lives Matter, modern day slavery, housing and more. Members are encouraged to look for the small steps that members can taken to deanery synods to serve as a framework for conversations and action, to support and encourage the life of the diocese.</p>
<p>21.26</p>	<p>PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SYNOD FOCUS GROUP</p> <p>Revd Carol Mansell, chair of the Community Engagement focus group and the other members of the group (Revd Chris Childs, Stephen Hart, Revd Annette Shannon and Karen Galloway) gave a presentation on the work they have been doing over the last three years including through lockdown.</p> <p>The remit was to look at ways to increase our service and engagement with local communities. Lockdown has enabled the church to focus more clearly on what the church is and what is it for.</p> <p>Three core elements of how to engage with the community have been established: speaking confidently about our faith, convening together with a wider purpose, and co-working together with other organisations to meet communities' needs.</p> <p>A number of films were shown to highlight different areas of community engagement. All the films and the full presentation can be found on the diocesan website (see weblink in item 21.24 above).</p>

	<p>Members were put into breakout rooms to discuss two questions: what are you going to take back to your churches as action points? In what ways have you been engaging with your community?</p> <p>Members were asked to take notes and email them back to Leonie Ryle, Comms Manager.</p>
21.27	<p>LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (LLF)</p> <p>Revd Canon Sharon Potter explained that nationally, 37 dioceses have now held an LLF event. Nearly 6,000 people have taken part in those events across the country. Members were encouraged to sign up to the LLF resourcing hub. Guidance for working with young people has now been added.</p> <p>There is an online survey available, to be completed by individuals. To date, it has been completed by around 600 people across the nation, but very few in our diocese.</p> <p>Nationally, the whole project has been delayed slightly due to covid which gives the diocese more time to engage, both by running more courses and completing the online survey. If anyone wishes to run a course, they are encouraged to speak to Sharon.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to get creative with this project (painting, baking, sewing etc). If anyone wishes to be part of this, again, see Sharon for details.</p>
21.28	<p>LIGHTWAVE</p> <p>Bishop Mike gave a presentation about the Growing in God in the Countryside project. There are two workstreams within the project; establishing smaller missional Lightwave groups and implementing ways to support and encourage rural mission. Bishop Mike gave a review on how these two workstreams are going.</p> <p>Though both workstreams are going incredibly well, it is felt that there is a need to discern the future and setting the direction of the project for the next three years. Members are encouraged to pray and get involved, if in a rural community. There is a discernment afternoon being held on 6 November.</p> <p>The full presentation and film can be found on the diocesan website (see weblink in item 21.24 above)</p> <p>Bishop Mike interviewed Ed Lucas from one of the Lightwave groups who shared how he had become involved in the Red Lodge rural hub and how much he has got from being a part of the group.</p>
21.29	<p>APPROVAL OF THE 2022 BUDGET</p> <p>Paper ref DS(21)P29. Steve West, DBF Treasurer, provided the background to the 2022 budget before passing over to Gary Peverley, Finance Director, who presented the detail. The presentation can be found on the diocesan website (see weblink in item 21.24 above).</p> <p>Highlights from the detailed paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021: Currently off track compared to budget with lower parish share receipts and higher clergy numbers than budgeted last year. At the end of August, there

is a deficit of £900k, the budget for full year was £500k deficit, now forecasting c£1.1m deficit. Parish share budget was £6.4m for the year, currently stands at £3.5m with a forecast for year end of £6.0m.

- Key assumptions for the 2022 budget:
 - Overall parish share request has remained the same over the last 2-3 years, at £7.0m, net parish share of £6.4m – it is hoped to see an improvement in the collection rate throughout 2022, appreciating though very difficult, things are beginning to improve.
 - Clergy numbers – 119 FTE in post, reflecting a higher proportion of filled vacancies than in the past.
 - A 2% increase in pay for staff and clergy.
 - A 2% increase in non-pay costs, noting that there are large inflationary pressures.
 - There is a need to maintain liquidity and in order to do this, to sell two properties not needed for operational use.

On the basis of the above assumptions, the total budget for 2022 is a deficit of £498k (including the operating or unrestricted fund and the restricted funds).

Gary highlighted that DBF trustees are committed to taking all the actions required to break even in the medium term, believing that it would be through missional growth that a sustainable financial environment would be achieved.

The meeting was opened up for questions. Though no questions were asked, two individuals passed on their thanks and congratulations to Gary and the finance team for all the hard work put into the budget.

Mark Pendlington, Chair of the DBF moved that:

“This Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend a sum not exceeding £10,483,933 in the financial year beginning 1 January 2022 in accordance with paper DS(21)P29”.

The motion was opened for debate. No comments were made.

Members voted by a poll over Zoom. The results were:

For	83	92% (98% of voting members)
Against	0	
Abstain	2	
Non-voters	5	

Mark Pendlington, Chair of the DBF moved that:

“The sum of £7,000,000 required from parishes to fund such expenditure be allocated to parishes in accordance with the current diocesan parish share allocation formula.”

The motion was opened for debate. One comment was made congratulating the team on the amount of work put into the presentation for members to digest.

	<p>Members voted by a poll over Zoom. The results were:</p> <p>For: 83 92% (98% of voting members) Against: 0 Abstain: 2 Non-voters: 7</p>
21.30	<p>AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS – TRUSTEES’ TERMS OF SERVICE</p> <p>Paper ref DS(21)P30. Archdeacon David, as chair of the Governance Committee provided background to the paper.</p> <p>One of the remits of the Governance Committee is to ensure the diocesan rules and regulations are up to date and fit for purpose. One area that has recently being looked at is the length of time an elected/co-opted or appointed member can sit on the Standing Committee (Bishop’s Council). There currently is no regulation within the Standing Orders and it was felt right to amend them to reflect the recommendations of the Charity Governance Code, to have a mechanism to reflect the dynamism of the diocese and to allow new voices to be heard.</p> <p>The Charity Governance Code recommends that a trustee should serve a maximum of 9 years (x3 3 years).</p> <p>The appendix in the paper reflects the changes recommended to the relevant Standing Orders.</p> <p>The meeting was opened up for questions.</p> <p>Maureen Blackburn, Saxmundham deanery, asked how to avoid all trustees retiring at the same time. James Hall, the diocesan registrar, replied to say that the committee has taken into account the fact that the elected, co-opted and appointed members affected by this change, account for one third of the total composition of the Bishop’s Council. That, along with elections to Bishop’s Council being held every three years, should minimise the risk of all trustees stepping down at the same time.</p> <p>Archdeacon David moved that:</p> <p>“Diocesan Synod Standing Orders be amended by the adoption of the revised wording of Standing Order 72 & 73 per paper DS(21)P30”</p> <p>The meeting was opened for debate. No comments were made.</p> <p>Members voted by a poll over Zoom. The results were:</p> <p>For 86 91% (99% of voting members) Against 0 Abstain 1 Non-voters 8</p>
21.31	<p>GENERAL SYNOD REPORT</p> <p>Paper ref DS(21)P31 is the report from General Synod in July. Revd Canon Jonathan Alderton-Ford provided a summary of the meeting.</p>

	<p>Members were advised to look at the section on elections regarding deanery synods representatives as they affect life in the diocese. Jonathan summarised the report by saying that the national church is not being static but is a church in transition, trying to respond to a number of pressures; not least the safeguarding report, Living in Love & Faith, climate change, responding to the housing crisis amongst other important subjects.</p> <p>General Synod is also reviewing the governance and structures of the church which will result in significant changes in the future. There is also a new vision and strategy report, "Simpler, Humbler and Bolder".</p> <p>Members were very much encouraged to read the report.</p>
21.32	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
	The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 19 June 2021, paper ref DS(21)M2 were approved.
21.33	MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA
	No matters arising were raised.
21.34	MINUTES OF THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL
	<p>The minutes of the following Bishop's Council meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 May 2021, ref DS(21)P34.1_BC(21)M3 • 15 July 2021, ref DS(21)P34.2_BC(21)M4
21.35	QUESTIONS
	No questions were received.
21.36	NOTICES
21.36.1	<p>Festival of Suffolk</p> <p>The Festival of Suffolk is a county wide event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, alongside the wider national celebrations. It is hoped the Festival will leave a legacy after the celebrations and work is underway to build over three years, a fund of in excess of £5m to help those particular issues that are challenging in Suffolk, such as social deprivation.</p> <p>It is an opportunity for the work of the church to be part of and get involved. More information can be found at www.festivalofsuffolk.org</p>

21.36.2	<p>Generous Giving</p> <p>Generosity week is a national initiative running from 26 Sept – 3 October. This will be a regular theme and will be repeated. Resources are available on the diocesan website and the national church. Members were asked to highlight the week next year in their parishes and benefices and were also encouraged to use the resources when holding any type of stewardship events.</p>
21.36.3	<p>National church Christmas campaign</p> <p>This year's national theme is "at the heart of Christmas" focussing on Luke 2:19, being the example of Mary. Lots of resources will be freely available on the national website.</p>
21.36.4	<p>Elections</p> <p>Bishop's Council – were run over the summer and there remains one clergy and five lay places. Members were encouraged to think about either standing themselves or asking others to stand.</p> <p>Likewise, there are many vacancies on Diocesan Synod, and members were encouraged to think about individuals who might be interested in standing, representing the wide diversity of the church and the gifts and skills required.</p>
21.36.5	<p>Update around DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of churches)</p> <p>Following the retirement of the DAC Secretary, James Halsall, earlier in the year, the vacancy has now been filled and our new DAC Secretary will start early in the new year. Thanks were passed to Charlotte Hodgson who has been acting up in the role. It is hoped the details will be published shortly.</p>

The meeting concluded with a blessing by Bishop Martin.

**The next meeting of the Diocesan Synod will be held at
9.30am, on Saturday 19 March 2021. It is still to be confirmed whether it will be in
person or on zoom.**