

Diocese of Leicester

Acts of Synod held on Saturday, 18 May 2019
at 9.30am at Bishop's Lodge, Leicester

<u>Present</u> :	House of Bishops	2
	House of Clergy	28
	House of Laity	41
<u>Apologies</u> :		35
<u>In attendance</u> :	Officers and contributors	10
	Secretariat	3

Chair: Peter Hooper, Chair of House of Clergy, for items 19/1 to 19/3. David Wilson, Chair of the House of Laity, for items 19/4 to 19/8.

The morning began with worship led by Paskal Clement, who introduced a Hindi worship song and encouraged those gathered to listen to the voice of Jesus and expect miracles to take place.

19/1 Presidential Address and Questions

Bishop Martyn's presidential address, given against the backdrop of the ongoing confusion surrounding Brexit and acknowledging the complexity of many aspects of contemporary life, reflected on the worldviews offered by modernism and post-modernism and their impact on the world we live in and on the way in which Christian faith is viewed.

In this context it is vital, he said, to hold together the universal story of God's involvement in the world expressed supremely in Christ, and also to ensure this story interacts with the lived experience of individuals, which often involves pain and confusion. The best example of how this can be done is to be found in local churches, rooted in the lived experience of their communities, but telling God's story.

Along with questions and comments from the floor reflecting on the address, Synod also received a written response to two written questions about safeguarding provision in the diocese and the implementation of policies, particularly at parish level. Contributions from the floor were received from: Sian Rigby (City of Leicester), Ed Bampton (Sparkenhoe East), and Norma Morris-Chapman (North West Leicestershire). The written questions were received from Ann Reddecliffe (City of Leicester).

19/2 Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance

The Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance took place. The AGM received the Annual Report and Accounts and appointed the auditors for the current year. (A separate minute is kept of the AGM.)

19/3 Living in Love and Faith

Bishop Martyn updated the Synod on the work of the Living in Love and Faith group which had been set up by the national church. He referred to the document on the Pastoral Principles which had been circulated to Synod members (and which is available on the Church of England website) and explained that further resources would be produced by the national group. The Synod would look at these issues in more detail once those resources were available. Bishop Martyn also referred to the motion which had been passed by Akeley East Deanery Synod and which had been distributed to those present.

19/4 Leicester Cathedral Revealed

David Monteith reflected on the role of cathedrals in the Church of England, and of Leicester Cathedral in the life of the diocese. He went on to talk about how the Leicester Cathedral Revealed project aimed to transform the cathedral so that it could better fulfil this role, and was pleased to report that, with a Lottery grant having been confirmed, the cathedral had now raised £8m out of the £11m needed for the project. He stressed that the vast bulk of this money was only available for heritage purposes. Contributions from the floor were received from: Keith Croysdale (Akeley East) and Rhian Parsons (General Synod).

19/5 Social Responsibility Stories

Alison Adams and Richard Worsfold led the Synod in discussions focused on Social responsibility work. Assisted by Andy Rhoades and Chris Collins, Alison presented a number of anonymised stories showing the challenges and hardships faced by real people in communities across the diocese. Members of Synod were encouraged to share stories and examples of good practice from their local churches, and also to encourage each other through prayer.

19/6 Annual Report of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches

Presenting the Annual Report of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), who act as an advisory body on matters affecting our diocesan buildings and places of worship, Claire Wood reported on the challenges faced by churches experiencing lead theft and said that the diocese was working to help parishes respond to this issue.

19/7 Promulgation of Amending Canon no. 38

The Amending Canon was promulgated.

19/8 Report from General Synod

Rhian Parsons reported on the February meeting of General Synod, which had looked at a wide range of issues ranging from Brexit to youth evangelism and had also voted through updated rules for church elections.

The Synod then closed with prayer led by Bishop Martyn.