

Diocese of Leicester

Acts of Synod held on Saturday, 23 November 2019
at 9.30am at St Paul, Oadby

<u>Present:</u>	House of Bishops	2
	House of Clergy	28
	House of Laity	41
<u>Apologies:</u>		40
<u>In attendance:</u>	Ecumenical Observer	1
	Officers and contributors	15

Chair: Peter Hooper, Chair of the House of Clergy for items 19/15 and 19/16. David Wilson, Chair of the House of Laity for items 19/17 to 19/19.

The Synod began with worship led by seven young people from Bishop's Youth Council. They led Synod into reflecting on the labels that the world can give us and the other, more positive qualities that God ascribes to us. They then invited the bishops to come forward to be prayed for by their Youth Council, followed by the Bishop's Leadership Team.

19/15 Presidential Address

Bishop Martyn's Presidential address introduced the theme of climate change. He reflected on the importance of the concept of *shalom* and how this related to three things: the diocesan narrative of Everyday Faith, the general election, and the proposal before Synod to become an eco-diocese. In looking at these issues he drew on *Enough is Enough*, a book written by the former Bishop of Winchester, Rt Revd John V Taylor.

Bishop Martyn highlighted that our diocesan narrative has the purpose of enlarging our vision and showing us that there is nothing outside the purview of God's Kingdom. Just as praying for MPs, for Brexit, and for those we disagree with is part of Everyday Faith, so are the small ways in which we live out 'the theology of enough'. He expressed his strong support for the proposal to seek an Eco-Diocese bronze award, noting that a lot of action relating to climate change was already being undertaken by churches in the Diocese.

In closing, he noted that the Hebrew concept of *shalom* was inter-generational and expressed his hope that young people from around the Diocese would be able to speak out about climate change. He then called on those present to accept the challenge that now is the time for action about this issue.

19/16 Responding to Climate Change

Andrew Quigley gave a brief introduction to this subject. Synod members were then invited to spend 30 minutes in table discussions concerning the question: What is your church doing to address the ecological crisis? Members of the Diocese's Environmental Group were available to assist with these discussions.

Following a short refreshment break, the Synod then heard from the Bishop's Youth Council and from Pioneer Ministers Anne Scott and Sarah Collins. Andrew Quigley then presented the motion: As a response to the current ecological crisis and to live out our faith in God as loving Creator, this Synod agrees to register for the "Eco Diocese" scheme, and work towards achieving a Bronze award within two years. Responding to a question from a Synod member, Andrew Quigley explained that the Environmental Group felt that aiming higher than a Bronze award at this initial stage was not realistic. Other contributions focused on a number of issues including financial implications, communicating the importance of this initiative, the involvement of schools, and the links between climate change and the gospel. All speakers were supportive of the motion which was passed unanimously.

19/17 DBF Budget 2020

Finance Director John Orridge presented the Diocesan budget for 2020, which was passed unanimously.

Jon Walker (Akeley East) asked whether it might be necessary to restructure the budget to better reflect diocesan priorities such as Fresh Expressions. Bishop Martyn responded that this was a question which would need looking at in the future.

19/18 Lay Representation on Deanery Synods

Andy Brockbank set out the proposed allocation of lay representatives on deanery synods in advance of the Deanery and General Synod elections in 2020. This was based on the scheme of representation used in previous years. John McGinley (City of Leicester) said that he felt the proposed allocation did not give an appropriate representation to larger churches and suggested increments of 50 per representative rather than 100. He therefore proposed this as an amendment to the scheme of representation with Colin Resch (Akeley East) seconding. The amendment was defeated by 32 votes to 30 with 9 abstentions. The scheme of representation as originally set out was then adopted with 2 votes against.

19/19 Diocesan Scheme of Quinquennial Inspection of Churches

Archdeacon Claire Wood presented the diocesan scheme of Quinquennial Inspection of churches, which had been produced in anticipation of the implementation of new church legislation in 2020. This was adopted unanimously.

Bishop Martyn led the Synod in a closing prayer.