

Note of business transacted at a meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 18th September 2021 and hosting using Zoom Video Conferencing

President: The Rt Revd Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle.

There were 53 members present, 3 guests and 4 officers.

1. Welcome and opening worship

The Bishop welcome all members to the first synod meeting of the new triennium. Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth, who had just returned from a convention in the Diocese of MØRE - linked with Newcastle, shared a greeting from MØRE.

2. Opening worship

Nicola Denyer led the Synod in an act of worship.

3. Election of Chair of the House of Clergy and Chair of the House of Laity

The House of Clergy elected the Revd Canon Brian Hurst as Chair of the House of Clergy.

The House of Laity elected Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth as Chair of the House of Laity.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

4.1 Minute of a meeting held on 8 May 2021 (Paper DS21 11)

The Synod agreed the minute of the meeting held on 8 May.

4.2 Matters arising

- Bishop Christine confirmed she had commissioned Archbishop Sentamu as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Newcastle. The Commission had taken place on Holy Island.
- Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth updated the Synod on Living in Love and Faith (LLF). The Next Steps National Group leading the consultation had announced the process was being extended to April 2022 to help parishes engage in the five-session course. Izzy had been working with parishes and Area Deans across the diocese to promote the resources. After the feedback closes the feedback and data will be given to the House of Bishops and the House will discern the next steps following
- The Secretary updated the Synod on the elections to the General Synod. Seven candidates were standing for the House of Clergy and six for the House of Laity. Each House had three places. The voting period was open. A hustings for electors to meet the candidates was being arranged.

5. Presidential Address

Bishop Christine gave a Presidential Address to the Synod. The Address was made available afterwards at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/isp9w5y4amibl7v/20210918%20Presidential%20Address.mp4?dl=0>

6. Presentation by Together Newcastle

The Synod received a presentation from Transforming Communities Together: Tyne to Tweed, the new trading name for Together Newcastle.

<https://tct-tynetotweed.org/>

7. Notices by the Secretary

a) Diocesan Synod Elections to Boards and Councils

The Secretary gave notice of the upcoming nomination period to fill places on the Bishop's Council; Board of Education; Diocesan Advisory Committee; Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee; and Houses and Glebe Committee.

b) Vacancy in See

The Secretary explained that the membership of the Vacancy in See Committee in place on 14 August 2021 would form the Committee. Once confirmation had been received from the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments that the process could begin the Committee would begin its work.

8. Transformation Programme: Growing Church Bringing Hope: NEXT STEPS

The Synod received a video presentation from the Bishop of Berwick who was unable to attend the meeting in person due to a commitment at Durham Cathedral. The presentation provided the Synod with an overview of the application for Strategic Transformation Funding to the National Church. The presentation was made available afterwards at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zspicbcd9mo9678/20210918%20Next%20Steps.mp4?dl=0>

The presentation was followed with group work and a plenary session.

9. Financial Update

Due to time constraints this item of business was not taken but was circulated to members after the meeting. A link to the update was also made available at:

<https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/20210918-finance-presentation-for-circulation.pdf>

10. Closing Prayer and Dismissal

There being no other business the Chair invited the Bishop to draw the meeting to a close.

The Bishop led the Synod in prayer and closed the meeting with a blessing.