

Meeting of Synod

Saturday 7th May at 9.15am

Quaker Meeting House 22 School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT

Our Diocesan Prayer

Loving God, by your grace we long to see more people knowing Jesus, and more justice in your world. Help us to live as your disciples in the power of the Spirit and to work to your praise and glory. Amen

Present: Rt Revd Bev Mason (President, Bishop of Warrington), Debra Walker (Chair of the House of Laity), Rev Canon Sam Nicolson (Chair of the House of Clergy), together with 69 members of Synod, 4 staff and 2 guests

Apologies: 27 members of Synod

Absent: 19 Members of Synod


Meeting commenced at 9.15am

Item	Note	Action Point
SESSION I: CHAIR – Rev Canon Sam Nicholson, Chair of the House of Clergy		
DS22/01	Welcome and Introduction from Chair of House of Clergy The Chair (SN) welcomed all to this Synod and encouraged Members to fully engage in consideration, listening, discussion and debate.	
DS22/02	Opening Prayer Led by Gabriel Chiu (Lay Rep General Synod) with Members joining with the Lord's prayer.	
DS22/03	Presidential Address Taken later in meeting.	
Introductory Items of Business		
DS22/04	Minutes of March 2022 Synod Synod noted that the Minutes having been approved by Bishop's Council on behalf of Synod as is normal practice and thereafter circulated to Members.	
Update Items of Business		
DS22/05	General Synod Reports Richard Denno (RD) gave a detailed and comprehensive account of the February 2022 sessions of general Synod. The written report being circulated in advance and published on the Diocesan website.	

	<p><i>Rev Kate Wharton, General Synod Representative (KW)</i> added comment that General Synod had recommended that different Houses should co-opt to within their number people of UKME/GMH. Convocation of York has agreed this and elections are in process. Any interested persons can contact KW directly for further information.</p> <p>With no questions from members, Synod noted the General Synod business and the Chair thanked Richard Denno for his contribution and to all General Synod members for their work and representing Liverpool Diocese.</p>	
DS22/06	<p>Annual Safeguarding Report</p> <p>Ven Pete Spiers (ADNPS) reported on the Annual Safeguarding Report circulated in advance. ADNPS began by thanking the Safeguarding Team for their work and especially Catriona Richardson, former Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser recently retired from post remarking on her diligence, dedication and compassion for victims and survivors of abuse. Thanks were also expressed to the Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Officers for their work in parishes and the additional work undertaken in relation to Past Case Review 2 (PCR2). The PCR2 report is due to be published by the National Church by July 2022 with this Diocese thereafter producing its own report and response to the PCR2 publication. ADNPS referred Members to the training statistics and urged all to undertake the Awareness of Domestic Abuse training and encourage others to do likewise. ADNPS advised Archdeacon's Parish Reviews were continuing and the vast majority of PCCs were compliant with safeguarding responsibilities of paramount importance. Members noted the Annual Safeguarding Report. The Chair joined ADNPS in thanking the Safeguarding Team for their work thanks especially for the work of Catriona Richardson.</p> <p><i>Ann Hulbert, Ormskirk Deanery</i> asked if the Awareness of Domestic Abuse training was available via the Safeguarding portal for clergy only. ADNPS advised it is available to both clergy and laity.</p> <p><i>Canon Maggie Swinson, Chair of DBF Finance Committee</i> recommended the training to all present, all of the PCC having undertaken the training.</p>	
DS22/03	<p>Presidential Address</p> <p>+B gave her Presidential Address which can be with both written and audio versions available here on the Diocesan website.</p>	
CHAIR – Debra Walker, Chair of the House of Laity		
DS22/07	<p>Fit for Mission 2 (FfM)</p> <p>The Chair invited ADNPS to present the Motion. ADNPS on behalf of all 3 Archdeacons spoke at length to this item referencing the supporting paper which had been circulated in advance highlighting FfM is principally about 4 priorities: introducing people to Jesus, deepening discipleship, developing Christian leaders and working for social justice, work God has laid upon us in mission. ADNPS outlined the work undertaken to date and the intentionally locally shaped process led by local people within Deaneries, underpinned by prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Chair invited representatives from Cohort 1 Deaneries to speak. The Area Dean and Lay Chair of West Derby, Rev Canon Emma Williams and Pamela Ambrose with the Joint Lay Chair of St Helens, Jenna Dunne, spoke of the experience within their Deaneries and why parishes within the Deaneries have elected to start the FfM journey as cohort 1.</p> <p>ADNSF moved the Motion that this Synod: i) Welcomes the decision of the Strategic Investment Board to award Strategic Transformation Funding for Fit for Mission 2; ii) Notes the progress being made by the two pilot deaneries; iii) Encourages other deaneries to begin thinking and praying as to whether they wish to be in a future cohort (cohort 2 starts in the autumn of 2023 and cohort 3 in 2024)</p> <p>The Chair advised before debate on the Motion, <i>Fr Nicholas Johnson, West Derby Deanery</i> wished to propose an amendment to the Motion seeking a full debate on the Fit for Mission proposal and the acceptance or rejection of the offered funding as previously noted in Synod Minutes. NJ gave a detailed account as to the grounds for the proposed amendment.</p>	

	<p>The Chair invited Members to vote by show of hands as to whether they wished to debate the proposed amendment to the Motion. For: 19; Against: 37; Abstentions: 3. The amendment was lost.</p> <p><i>Fr Nicholas Johnson, West Derby Deanery</i> proposed moving the amendment without debate.</p> <p>The Chair invited Members to vote by show of hands as to whether they wished to support the proposed amendment to the Motion (without further debate.) For:19; Against:37; Abstentions:3 The amendment was lost.</p> <p>The Chair invited questions and debate based on the original Motion</p> <p><i>Fr Gary Hughes, West Derby Deanery</i> commented that having discussed and debated at parish and Deanery, he would advocate for and support FfM to enable churches to grow in mission and opportunity being a catalyst for growth;</p> <p><i>Rev David Brooke, Wigan Deanery</i> offered a reflection on the process in Wigan and the learning that could be applied to FfM, to face endless debate on the unknown or to step out into the unknown in faith and recommended FfM to Members;</p> <p><i>Richard Denno, St Helens Deanery</i> advised he would vote against the motion primarily on an issue of governance where initial advice given was that 80% of parishes within a Deanery would be required to agree to become cohort 1, yet St Helens Deanery had been allowed to proceed with only 66.6% voting in favour.</p> <p><i>Rev Heather Goldsmith, South Sefton Deanery:</i> Whilst excited by prospect of growth and change but have concern how this is managed and communicated to avoid burnout. Debate would be welcomed to allow more time to discuss and understand rather than to vote for or against at this time.</p> <p><i>Caroline Ramsey, Sefton North Deanery;</i> The questions we have are not about knowledge and detail, the matters are unknown but the questions are about if this will work, will it hurt, can we hold each other in good relationship. We can only know by doing and need lay leadership to come to the fore.</p> <p><i>Adrian Manson, Walton Deanery:</i> If a Church wishes to not participate, is it ok for it not to? And how does this relate to the rest of a Deanery who is in support of FfM journey?</p> <p><i>Gabriel Chiu, Toxteth and Wavertree Deanery:</i> remarked he would like to see the theological underpinning for the FfM proposal;</p> <p><i>Rev Sam Nicholson, Wigan Deanery:</i> Commented would be supporting the original motion, and is passionate about what it can offer parishes and Deaneries. A collaborative working approach throughout Wigan has meant personal benefit, Parish benefit and benefit to the people in Wigan, making Jesus known to more people, raising lay leaders and resulted in increased mission and growth. It was not easy and not without pain and is not perfect, but she would not return to being one vicar, one church;</p> <p><i>Rev Steve Beck, Wigan Deanery:</i> <i>Joined Wigan Deanery during lockdown going where God called him to be. The collaborative working between clergy and laity throughout Church Wigan has been a gift that has served the people of Wigan for the better.</i></p> <p><i>The Chair thanked all who had spoken and contributed to the discussions and motions. The Chair reminded Synod of the original Motion and moved Members to vote by show of hands. The original Motion was carried.</i></p>	
Synod breaks and reconvenes at 1115hrs		
DS22/08	Clergy Covenant Item deferred until Synod October 2022	
DS22/09	Diocesan Board of Education - New Measure <i>The Chair introduced Mike Eastwood, Diocesan Secretary to speak to the item. ME referred Members to the circulate paper.</i> The new DBE Measure, will take the place of the current 1991 Measure (last updated in 2006). It has been introduced to reflect the changes in the education system and legislation over the last decade, particularly the growth in Academies. The new legislation is less prescriptive about the	

	<p>membership of DBEs and makes it much easier for the composition of the membership to be reviewed and changed when needed. The Measure also captures some of the developments in collaboration and cross working between Dioceses such as shared Diocesan Boards of Education and other joint endeavours. Further, the Measure also simplifies the process of updating legislation in response to future developments, a move informed by General Synod's wish for modernisation and simplification of structures and processes.</p> <p>+B proposed the Motion: <i>That this Synod: (i) endorses the Scheme contained in DS22(09)a, and (ii) recognises that the implementation date is conditional on the proposed scheme being certified by Archbishops' Council in accordance with s.23(1) and, therefore, the scheme will be "made" on the date the certificate is issued by the Archbishops' Council.</i></p> <p>Motion carried unanimously</p>	
DS22/10	<p>Wigan Deanery Motion</p> <p>The Chair welcomed to Synod Christine Keeley (CK) who had been invited to address Synod speaking to this Deanery Motion. Rev Sam Nicholson (SM) introduced the background to this motion acknowledging the instrumental work from CK. CK addressed Synod giving a moving and powerful account as to the work within her secular role that called her to question and seek to address the provision of support, advice and assistance to those who had been advised during pregnancy that their child would have a disability. Provision of advice and support other than termination of the pregnancy is scarce and had to those who had little options presented or time and space to consider their decisions fully. The Chair invited comment and questions from Members. Several Members spoke giving personal reflections regarding their experience of parenthood, the options and advice (and lack of) during that time. All Members who spoke commended CK work and her calling to serve. The Chair thanked all who had spoken and contributed their personal experiences to the discussion and reflection.</p> <p>The Chair called for the Motion to be proposed.</p> <p>Rev Sam Nicholson proposed the Motion: <i>That this Synod, reaffirming its belief that every person is unique and precious and made in the image of God, and endorsing section 6 of the Equality Act (2010):</i></p> <p><i>i) Challenges the common assumption that bringing a disabled child into the world is a tragedy to be avoided; ii) Calls upon healthcare providers and other public authorities to improve the support they give to the parents and families of children born with disabilities; iii) Calls upon Her Majesty's Government and healthcare providers to ensure that mothers whose unborn child may be disabled in any way are given comprehensive and unbiased information about the condition and support available to them; iv) Calls upon dioceses, parishes and chaplaincies to consider how they might better witness to the human dignity of disabled children, including the better pastoral advice and support they might offer to their parents and families.)</i></p> <p>Motion carried with 1 abstention</p> <p>The Chair on behalf of all Members thanked CK for her work and for addressing Synod.</p>	
CHAIR – Rev Canon Sam Nicholson, Chair of the House of Clergy		
DS22/11	<p>Living in Love and Faith - update</p> <p>The Chair invited Rev Canon Amanda Bruce (AB) and Rev Dan Leathers (DL) to speak to the item. AB gave a verbal update on the Diocesan work on Living in Love and Faith (LLF) highlighting the work having been addressed through key principles, a fully resourced course and the work of LLF Advocates to support parishes and deaneries. Additionally, parishes had used the facilitation training to enable delivery of LLF and had reported this support to be helpful. Feedback following completion of the course had been given by those who had participated, both at parish</p>	

	<p>and individual level. DL presented a next steps process as to how the information received would be used to enable the whole church to journey together: learning, listening, discerning and deciding. This work will be ongoing into 2023. Members were encouraged to engage in small groups discussion to discern how LLF will shape the future church and what might Synod do differently to better embody pastoral principles for all.</p>  <p>LLF in the Diocese of Liverpool.pptx</p> <p>+B advised feedback would inform conversations in the College of Bishops. Members were encouraged to engage in small groups discussion to discern how LLF will shape the future church, what does god discourse look like and what might Synod do differently to better embody pastoral principles for all (PPT slide 15). The Chair expressed thanks for the presentation and for all the work that has underpinned the delivery and engagement of LLF within the Diocese.</p>	
<p>DS22/12</p>	<p>Questions under Standing Order 68 The Chair invited <i>Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Toxteth and Wavertree Deanery</i> to raise the Question submitted under SO: Does the Diocese have a policy on the financial package that is attached to fractional clergy posts eg 0.5 posts, 0.6 posts, HFD post, and if so please can we have the details of what such packages consist of? And has a gender equality impact assessment been made on such packages?</p> <p>Mike Eastwood responded that the Diocese is undertaking some calculations in relation to this especially in relation to housing and to have a consistency across the Diocese to all similar posts. Once that calculation is finalised, it will be published. In relation to gender impact assessment, that has nit been addressed but ideas are welcomed to assist with that element. <i>Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Toxteth and Wavertree Deanery</i> raised a <i>supplementary question</i>: if the house is particularly valued, would it become a taxable benefit and the implications of that assessment. ME commented that this is a live issue within the calculation and be under consideration.</p>	
<p>DS22/13</p>	<p>The meeting closed with prayer and blessing by the Bishop of Warrington.</p>	