

## Diocesan Synod Draft MINUTES

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>Saturday 07<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>
<b>Times:</b>	<b>1000 - 1600</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Gryphon School, Sherborne.</b>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action Outcome / Initial</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	
	The Chair of the House of Laity (GC) welcomed all to the meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Opening Worship</b>	
	Diocesan Synod were led in worship by Rev Jim Edie.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Presidential Address</b>	
	AdDorset welcomed Katie Fitzsimmons (Director of Education) to Diocesan Synod and asked +Stephen to commission her into the role. All welcomed Katie to her role and Synod. +Stephen followed this with his presidential address: <i>There is something surreal about today for me. You see friends, 35 years ago this very week, I stood here in this school, and I took my first secondary school act of collective worship... read the full address <a href="#">here</a>.</i>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b>	
	Minutes from the 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 meeting were approved. No conflicts of interest were raised. Apologies were received from 19 clergy and 14 laity meaning Diocesan Synod is quorate.	<b>Approved</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Making Jesus Known: Vision and Strategic Priorities</b>	
	Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury; Jonathan Triffitt gave a <a href="#">presentation</a> celebrating the visit and the galvanised hope and confidence that has arisen from this. He spoke of the legacy of joy and the on-going conversations Making Jesus Known. +Stephen extended a thank-you to Jonathan for his part in making the visit such a success and reminded everyone that the week following the	

	<p>visit the Diocesan Synod had overwhelming supported the Vision and Strategy.</p> <p>Engagement Process – Diocesan Synod were encouraged to discuss the progress being made in the engagement of Making Jesus Known in the diocese.</p> <p>We heard from Poole and North Bournemouth who held a meeting extending the invite to beyond the ‘normal’ reach with great success; feeling this indicated the measure of keen people are to be involved and find out more. GC felt another success was running the event themselves at ‘local’ level.</p> <p>Mandy Christopher led a section on importance of including children and young people (CYP) alongside the V&amp;S process. She introduced Steph Rann who heads-up the Growing Faith Hub and shared a video <a href="#">watch it here</a>. They stressed the need to allow CYP to lead and prioritise what is important to them.</p> <p>Synod were then invited to hold conversations in group to discuss what is already happening in the context of the 5 priorities; what are you learning; how might we do it better together/what might be different and shared their main views/concerns.</p> <p>A link to a Slack where discussions can continue can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>+Andrew introduced Dan Crooke to Synod who spoke about the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. You can find the presentation and details <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>+Andrew then proposed:  <i>“That this synod affirms as part of our diocesan vision and strategy, its commitment to champion climate justice, the fifth mark of mission, through the adoption and implementation of the diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. This synod also pledges to bring forward future actions and commitments to achieve climate justice as we Make Jesus Known.</i></p> <p>Synod were asked to vote:          For: 73          Against: 4          Abstain: 6</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Making Jesus Known; Financing the Future Sustainably</b>	
	<p>+Karen and +Andrew spoke of the opportunity created by the Aldhelm Mission Fund and the contribution this allows us to sustain local mission. We have received a very generous gift to the fund from St Denys of a £1m – huge thanks from everyone.</p> <p>DP then moved to discuss DBF budget and Parish Share options for 2024. We are starting from a good place and DP highlighted that for the first time in his role as Diocesan Secretary the proposed budget today does not plan for an operating deficit – we have set a priority to finance the</p>	

	<p>future sustainably and are being clear about our reality and choices. This includes (STC) the sale of Church House, the fantastic Aldhelm fund and the opportunity to apply for national church funds to support local church mission. The headline of the zero deficit budget translates into a headline 8% increase to Share request. This is proposed on a sliding scale with transition support for one year, with a percentage not being asked for an increase at all. With a clear vision to Make Jesus Known, the invitation is to renew our mission and financial stewardship in every part of the diocese.</p> <p>The chair of the DBF then put forward the move:  <i>“That the Diocesan Board of Finance annual Budget for 2024 is approved.”</i></p> <p>Synod were asked to vote:          For: 70          Against: 1          Abstain: 3</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Questions from Synod Members (non-finance related)</b>	
	<p>Questions were received and responded to prior to the meeting and shared with all (<a href="#">HERE</a>) with written answers taken as read.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Cathedral Annual Report</b>	
	<p>The Dean of the cathedral was welcomed to the Synod and gave a visual report of the past year. This can be viewed <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	<p><b>Received</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Arrangements for 2024 Elections</b>	
	<p>A paper outlining the election requirements for 2024 was shared with Synod and on behalf of the Bishop’s Council the Chair moved:  <b>Motion:</b>          Diocesan Synod and Diocesan Board of Finance Elections 2024 – The Chair of the House of Laity to move on behalf of the Bishop’s Council:</p> <p>“That this Synod,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Determines that the basis of lay representation be amended to reduce the number of members that each deanery is required to elect.</li> <li>b. In order to ensure an approximately equal number of House of Laity and House of Clergy and that the total membership of the Synod and Board of Finance lies between 100 and 270 members, determines that the formula for clergy members to be elected by the Houses of Clergy of the deanery synods shall be on a proportion of 18% of the membership of those Houses.</li> <li>c. Further determines that the form of voting paper to be used by the deaneries in this election and for any election to fill a casual vacancy occurring during the next ensuing three years shall</li> </ol>	

	be Form 6 in Part 10 of Church Representation Rules, which is for elections to be decided by simple majority.”	<b>Approved</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Safeguarding Canon</b>	
	+Stephen explained an amendment to Canon 42 with the following information: “I give notice that, at its July 2023 group of sessions, the General Synod resolved that Amending Canon No. 42 be made, promulgated and executed. “Amending Canon No. 42 amends Canon C 30 by replacing the requirement for the bishop of each diocese to appoint a Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) with a requirement for the bishop to appoint a Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) with responsibility in the diocese, independent of the bishop, for professional leadership on and management of safeguarding matters. The Canon also provides for the professional supervision of DSOs and for the quality assurance of their work by the National Safeguarding Team. The changes will come into force diocese by diocese upon certification by the Archbishops’ Council.”	<b>Received</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	Details of Diocesan Synod meetings in 2024 were shared. No AOB to note.	