

Leeds Diocesan Synod

DRAFT minutes of the twenty seventh meeting of the Synod of the diocese held at 9.30 am on Saturday, 16 March 2024 via Zoom.

Chair: The Bishop of Leeds

Jonathan Wood confirmed the procedure for meeting.

1. Opening prayers, Welcome and Apologies.

Worship was led by Bishop Smitha Prasadam.

Welcome and Chair's permission to speak

The Chair welcomed:

Judith Osborne, new lay General Synod member and gave Chair's permission to speak for Item 9 – Barnabas Update, to The Revd Jude Smith, Director of Church Revitalisation.

Apologies

16 apologies had been received.

Chair: Canon Mr Matthew Ambler (Chair of the House of Laity)

2. Motion: Minutes of the last meeting on 14 October 2023. DS24 03 01

The Chair reported that there was one notified amendment from David Corps (Huddersfield deanery):

“At the foot of page 11, the question I asked was, “Since the Church Representation Rules provided that Synod must approve a method to be used, if the motion failed then would a fresh motion be required?”

The clarification received was that, in such a case, method one would continue as the existing approved method.”

A copy of the draft minutes with the notified amendment has been circulated to Synod members.

The Chair proposed:

“That the draft minutes contained in DS24 03 01 with the notified amendment be accepted as a true record of the Diocesan Synod meeting held on 14 October 2023”.

Voting: For 74; Against 01; Abstain 10.

The motion was approved.

3. Presidential Address.

The Bishop of Leeds gave his Presidential Address. A copy of the Presidential Address is attached to these minutes.

4. Questions to the Synod.

Questions received and replies had been circulated to the Synod member on 15.3.2024. The Chair asked the questioners if they had supplementary questions:

- 1 Graham Foster (Halifax and Calder Valley deanery) had given apologies for the Synod. There were no questions from members.
- 2 The Revd Robert Hart (Pontefract deanery) – Expressed thanks for the full response. Had no supplementary question but commented that advice wasn't the issue but hard cash investment was needed to achieve the 2030 target.
- 3 Steve Jackson (Richmond deanery) re Deanery Lay Chair term – Apologised as he realized he had misheard/misunderstood something which had led to the Question. He had no supplementary Question.

The Chair confirmed that an apology wasn't needed as clarification was the purpose of the Questions.

- 4 Steve Jackson (Richmond deanery) re Deanery Synod member term – No supplementary Question.

5. Motion: Fossil Fuel Divestment DS24 03 02

Paper: DS24 03 02

Proposer: The Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon.

Presenter: Jonathan Wood.

The Chair introduced the item. It was noted that there was an extraneous "to" between the words "not" and "invest" in the proposed motion as it appeared on the Agenda. As this was clearly a typographical error, the proposer was content for the Synod to proceed on the basis of the motion being:

"That this Diocesan Synod approves the proposal that the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance does not invest in companies with significant revenues (i.e. greater than 10%) arising from fossil fuels, in the future.

Proposer: The Rt Revd Anna Eltringham (Bishop of Ripon)

Bishop Anna Eltringham introduced the motion. The 1.5C warning limit had been breached and we must resolve to increase action, showing love for God and our brothers and sisters across the

Globe, not losing faith and keeping hope and humanity. The diocese had led on climate change over many years and now was seeking to follow where others were taking lead. The Church Commissioners, CCLA and other dioceses who had pledged to disinvest and for these reasons Bishop Anna was proposing that the Leeds DBF did likewise. Bishop Anna read out the motion set out above.

Jonathan Wood (JW) gave a PowerPoint presentation setting out the background to the motion. The Synod had approved motions in 2021 and 2022 concerning climate change. The motion being proposed was to crystallise the matter going forward – in practice it was in place already as all the Leeds DBF funds were invested with CCLA. CCLA had made a commitment not to invest in any company with revenues of more than 10% arising from fossil fuels.

Questions of clarification

None.

Debate

The Revd John Bavington (Inner Bradford deanery)

Supported the motion. This was a vital decision to make to invest in a carbon neutral future and show the diocese was putting its money where its mouth was. John asked if parishes could participate to ensure their CCLA funds were divested of fossil fuels.

JW responded that any parish funds invested with CCLA would not be invested in fossil fuels as CCLA said none of their funds would be invested as set out in the motion. Parishes would need to consider non-CCLA investments separately and if necessary speak to their investment manager to check their investment policy in relation to fossil fuels.

The Chair read out the motion.

Voting: For 84; Against 0; Abstain 03.

The motion was approved.

6. Report: General Synod report (November 2023 and February 2024) DS24 03 03

Paper: Synod members had been circulated with a report of both November 2023 and February 2024 Synods from The Revd Canon Rachel Firth (DS24 03 03).

Speaker: The Revd Canon Rachel Firth (RF)

RF encouraged the Synod members to contact the General Synod members. RF said it had been good at the last General Synod to see time for private members motions and Diocesan Synod motions. RF asked deaneries to consider items to bring to the Diocesan Synod for future debate by the General Synod.

The Bishop of Leeds endorsed RF's request for Synod members to be in touch with the General Synod members. Papers for the General Synod were available online before the General Synod and there was a meeting of the General Synod members two weeks before and then two weeks

after each General Synod.

The Revd Robb Sutherland (Halifax and Calder Valley deanery)
Concerning the Estates motion mentioned in RF's report, Robb was a member of the Estates Evangelism Task group. Robb highlighted that although the EETg had a strong mandate and could feed matters up to General Synod but there wasn't the link then to the dioceses. The issues with this had been particularly seen with regard to raising low income funding. For this reason it was important to have voices in the national church who ask hard questions.

Synod moved to Item 7 without a break.

Chair: The Revd Canon Rachel Firth (Chair of the House of Laity)

7. **Update: Living in Love and Faith**

Paper: No paper.

Speaker: The Bishop of Leeds.

Bishop Nick gave an update on the progress of Living in Love and Faith and Prayers of Love and Faith. Various groups were working to codify what the future might look like including the protection of the conscience of individual parishes and clergy. The last General Synod had had a different tone with a genuine attempt to by members to respect one another and look for solutions. Further paperwork on this was expected at the July 2024 General Synod.

8. **Motion: Link Dioceses Review DS24 03 04**

Paper: DS24 03 04

Proposer: The Very Revd Andy Bowerman, Dean of Bradford. (AB)

Motion:

"That this Synod, affirming and celebrating the companion links between the Diocese of Leeds and other parts of the Anglican Communion and with ecumenical partners, approves the recommendations for the Diocese of Leeds companion links set out in DS24 03 04."

Proposer: The Very Revd Andy Bowerman (Dean of Bradford).

AB spoke to the circulated paper. St Paul had written to the church in Corinth that if one part suffers all suffer and if one rejoice all do. It was always meant that we would be one family, so we should seek to be one. We are people of God in the UK while part of the Anglican Communion, so we rejoice and suffer together. These had been the essential dynamics of the work on the diocesan link dioceses. AB had held 80 conversations and what has emerged was that the links provided, influence,

challenge, meaningful interactive and educational responses and a commitment to partnership. However, there was a need to review if there was a problem and the Steering Group would have the task of implementing these reviews as set out in the report.

This wouldn't preclude schools, parishes and individuals developing ongoing friendships where these arise. Covid had had a negative impact on some links and some had moved to online. These conversations though were sending hope and the only cost was time.

AB thanked the Bishop's Staff, Links and all who engaged in the review.

Questions of clarification

The Revd Eve Ridgeway (North West Leeds deanery)

Asked which of the recommendations in the circulated report were those being voted on by the Synod? Specifically were all the links remaining in place for the time being and would it be for the Steering group to do further work and consider if any might close? Were there any links already at the stage of being closed?

Canon Mrs Jane Evans (General Synod)

The recommendation in the report mentioned some links but not others ie Tanzania and Sri Lanka. If links were not mentioned specifically did that mean they were being reviewed by the new Steering Committee? Who was on the new Steering Committee?

AB responded:

The Synod is asked to vote on the recommendations set out at Section 2 of the paper but in the context of the paper as a whole. The paper did not ask the Synod to vote on ending any relationship. The Steering Group would carry out a scheduled review of the Links.

Debate

The Revd Anne Russell (East Leeds deanery)

Anne is the co-Chair of the Sudan Link. Anne said that the Links were all about parishes and people and thanked everyone who had been involved in the Links. Anne supported the paper and welcomed the visit of the senior staff to Sudan. Anne said £20k was going to Sudan to pay the clergy salaries for those who hadn't been paid since summer 2023. Anne mentioned that there was only one clergy person of Sudanese heritage in the Church of England and they were in the Diocese of Leeds. Anne said the church needed broad diversity.

The Revd Pete Gunstone (Inner Bradford deanery)

Pete had been involved in worship around the World, involved in Lee Abbey Community where there were thirty different nationalities and had been leading the music at the last Lambeth Conference. At a recent Racial Justice Unit conference, participants were encouraged to make space and develop early and meaningful relationships with those of different backgrounds. The diocesan Links do this. Pete commended the motion and the development of personal links to all the Synod members.

Bishop Toby Howarth (Bishop of Bradford)

Co-chair of the Sudan steering group. Thanks AB and those who had contributed to the review and

those who make the links possible. The Links only happen because of parishes' energy and work. Bishop Toby supported the motion and the formation of a Steering Group. The ongoing decision about the Links was important and that the Steering group included Chairs and champions of the Links. So every current Link was included in the Steering group as well as members of the Link communities in the diocese. Bishop Toby also highlighted that as the Diocese of Leeds had so many Links, it brought together provinces and dioceses with different views. This was important for building fabric across the Anglican Communion.

The Revd John Bavington (Inner Bradford deanery)

The Revd Ludia Shukai from Sudan was member of his benefice team. John also had links with Pakistan and was glad to see the challenge in the paper to establish new Links with Pakistan as this was vital to the diocese. John was in favour of the motion and highlighted that the diocese hosted the only Christian charity which focussed on education in Pakistan.

AB responded to the debate

AB apologized for not outlining the members of the Steering Group in the paper. There would be empowered co-ordination ie the Chair and other members would join via zoom. The final composition was to be confirmed once the motion was in place.

The Chair read out the motion.

Voting: For 85; Against 0; Abstain 03.

The motion was approved.

9. **Presentation: Barnabas Update**

Paper: Copy of Barnabas Update presentation PPT circulated to Synod.

Presenter: The Revd Jude Smith, Director of Church. (JS)

JS gave an update to the Synod on the Barnabas project using a PowerPoint presentation previously circulated to the Synod reminding Synod members of what resources for clergy and parishes had been outlined for the future at previous updates, what had been delivered and some more general updates on the Barnabas project. JS highlighted:

- £3.9m had been received from the National Church for the Barnabas project.
- Personal Growth and Leadership courses taster sessions. Seventy people had attended PGL courses in 2024.
- Hendrik Klaver had joined the Barnabas Team to champion Mission Accompaniment. Hendrik was drawing together a team who would come alongside churches and discern what the next step might be.
- More resources for simplifying governance had been added to the Barnabas website pages along with links to grants and funding. The next round of grant funding applications would begin in June 2024. Up to £12k was available for building repair and improvement.
- Resources to help clergy lead in changing times – a number of learning communities were up and running, more mentors were being trained. Clergy were asked to speak to their area bishop or archdeacon to access mentor support. In addition there was a bespoke leadership

- course. The second cohort would be starting in May 2024.
- Support for congregations:
 - Micro grants were available to use on anything to do with new congregations. The deadline for applications was 30 April 2024.
 - Greenhouse national initiative - there was a learning community in the Ripon Area and the next meeting was in June.
 - Online Messy Church community.
 - Online Tool – the Barnabas Team was looking for 5 – 10 churches to trial this tool.
 - Other Updates:
 - Further national funding had been given to the Diocese to invest more in the Children and Families team. Alex Burbidge had joined the team to grow good practice of the link between church schools and home.
 - Wensley deanery was working with Alena-Rose Douglas, looking at collectivising building costs.
 - A large amount of money was specifically for work with young people in Wakefield. Three youth workers were recruited in September 2023 together with a Project Support worker and 500 people had been contacted and 50 people had attended a drop in session.

JS encouraged the Synod members to contact the Barnabas Team to share their good news stories via the online form on the diocesan website.

Comments

Robert Haskins (Harrogate deanery)

There had been a presentation given in Harrogate deanery from a person who co-ordinated the net zero carbon ambition for the Methodist Church in North Yorkshire. They had already achieved adding solar panels to the roofs of 12 churches. Robert wondered if this approach of co-ordinating from a central resource could be replicated in Barnabas funding in the diocese.

JW responded that the first phase of Barnabas funding had already been bid for and the diocese was compelled to use the Barnabas monies as agreed in the funding application and approval. The diocese was actively looking for funding for net zero carbon but it wasn't possible to use Barnabas monies for that.

The Bishop of Leeds

Encouraged the Synod members to become engaged with Barnabas particularly emphasising one of the diocesan values: learning.

Chair: The Bishop of Leeds

10. Bishop of Leeds Blessing and Close.

The Bishop of Leeds thanked the Synod members, looked forward to seeing the clergy at the Chrism Eucharist and wished all a Happy Easter in Faith and Hope and Love.

Diocese of Leeds

Twenty Seventh Diocesan Synod, Saturday 16 March 2024

Presidential Address

On Tuesday morning's Today programme this week I did a Thought for the Day script about the Russian presidential elections taking place while we speak this weekend. The next morning I did a script on the BBC Radio 2 Breakfast Show ... on Taylor Swift and my need to listen deeply and learn to listen through the ears of my eleven year old granddaughter who is a fan. For the record, I am not becoming a Swiftie. Both scripts are on my blog.

Two scripts, two studios, two different languages. And a pointed reminder of just how weird this world is: from Russian elections at a time of war on European soil – unthinkable even ten years ago – to a global pop phenomenon whose entertainment can drive headlines about Russia, Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza down the running order. The dominance of one doesn't displace the power of the other. Because life on this planet involves every type of human passion, commitment and engagement, at every level, and through a multiple of cultural media. Orchestras still play in Ukraine, surrounded by physical ruins and the deaths of thousands of ordinary people.

So, what do we make of this? I sit on a House of Lords select committee for Communications and Digital and we are currently doing an inquiry into news and trust. Witnesses are clear that a substantial number of people in the West are simply avoiding news because it is all so grim. Britain is broke, councils are going bust, public services are a mess, if they exist at all. War is ongoing in Europe. In Gaza children are dying of hunger and hostages languish in tunnels. In Sudan somewhere between 8-11 million people have been displaced and famine is promised next year. Ethiopia and Tigray are exploding. And public ethics at home seem capable of being subject to the size of political donations. I could go on. I understand the news avoiders.

But, Christians have a problem with this. Christians serve a God who opted to come among us, as one of us, plunging into the reality of the world's convulsions and insecurities and not staying back where reality (and its costs) can be avoided. Soon we will move through Lent into Holy Week and Easter – and this journey cannot be rushed: we cannot leap from Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to resurrection Easter before living in the tragic abandonment of what I still call 'Empty Saturday'. Incarnation means what it says. No escapism for Christians, however problematic or depressing the world appears to be. While Taylor Swift occupies the minds and wallets of millions of young girls like my granddaughter, children are being wantonly slaughtered in wars, and potential genocides are taking place only a short plane flight from our island.

Into this darkness I want to shine a light I have flickered at you before now. The great musician and poet Bruce Cockburn did a song many years ago called "Don't forget about delight". It's a phrase that almost haunts me when dealing with tough stuff (or people) here in the Diocese of Leeds or when engaging with the political challenges of our generation across the globe. Don't forget about delight. People need the encouragement of hope – not the same thing as optimism – and not just reminders of the challenges: the shining of a light, not just constant exposition of the power of darkness. Don't forget about delight. And this is where I think our Synod fits in.

Our business is not just random bits of interesting agenda items. We are doing the stuff of the Kingdom of God. A synod is, literally, the coming together around the bishop to think and pray and talk – possibly even to learn and change our mind on some things. I don't come to a synod with the intention of dispensing wisdom or "getting my way on some issue". I want to listen to the different perspectives brought – different lights shone – on our business from Christian disciples, lay and ordained, who bring their experience, understanding and contextual lens to bear on our conversation. In a world where people compete for power, this can be a unique place, a different space for a different dialogue.

Today we will look at some real challenges: fossil fuel divestment, sexuality in the church, the future of our diocesan partnership links, how we are trying, not least through our Barnabas programme and against the continuing backdrop of our challenges with parish share, to encourage and support the parishes and people of this diocese in their particular ministry in their particular context. All of this - and much more besides – forms part of how we follow Jesus together, seeking to look as a church like the Jesus we read about in the gospels. None of this is either obvious or easy.

For example, your response to fossil fuel divestment might be fed by profound concern for the future of the planet; but, it might be driven by a sense of being too small to make a difference. Both approaches – or, rather, drivers find a biblical root: the creation ordinances in the early chapters of Genesis, a vision of the new heaven and the new earth in the Book of Revelation, or the gospel parables which tell us not to despise the smallness of small things.

Or, as I was asked in London last week by someone who isn't a Christian, why the Church is obsessed with sexuality and loving relationships when the world is in turmoil around us. Is it an example of 'distraction therapy', enabling the church to avoid the real challenges such as poverty, conflict and division? How do we attend to hierarchies of priorities? This isn't a case of 'whataboutery'. Rather, it is a complex matter to address so many challenges at any one time in such a way as to avoid diminishing the importance of one by focusing on another. Sex and sexuality matter; but, as Christians in Germany discovered nearly a century ago, some become less of a priority when other matters increase in urgency. Arguing about the colour of the chairs in church might be entertaining for a few, but if this helps us avoid minorities being singled out for violence or exclusion, then we have missed the point somewhat.

This is a clumsy way of saying that we need to keep a sense of perspective. My passion might not actually be the most important thing to deal with now. Today we will make a decision about the next steps in our future relationships with dioceses and provinces around the world. Sudan now has between eight and eleven million displaced people while the civil war grinds on – and when did you last see a report on the television about it? The media radar doesn't always reflect what is most important in the world. But, as our sisters and brothers in Sudan experience violence, displacement, poverty, famine and persecution, so we must ask ourselves what matters most in our own preoccupations. It isn't 'either-or', of course; but, a sense of perspective can help us with our own necessary repentance – literally, metanoia, a change of mind.

Our partnership links are not an optional luxury. We need to look at our faith and church through the lens of brothers and sisters who live and see and think differently from us. Our commitment to and with them has to be achievable, affordable and sustainable ... and sometimes we need to look again and check we are on the right track with our international relationships and commitments.

I am saying this now as we prepare to discuss and debate with one another. We do so with mutual respect and humility. This is about our common life, and we don't always know ahead of time whether we are right or wrong. Which means that we must learn to listen deeply, hear accurately, speak generously and think carefully and honestly.

We meet one month ahead of the tenth anniversary of the birth of this diocese on 20 April 2014. So, this offers a potent reminder of why the diocese exists in the first place. There is a lot of noise in the world and in the church at the moment. But, like Jesus hearing the call of blind Bartimaeus *despite the efforts of the crowd to drown him out*, we need to listen for the real priorities of a bleeding world and remember for whom and for what purpose we exist. This year we have a number of events to help us mark this decade, starting with the visit of the Archbishop of York over the actual anniversary weekend. We will have one celebration service in Bradford Cathedral, but regret that we cannot fit everybody in whom we would like to invite. Nevertheless, however we celebrate, we can mark ten years of a diocese that has shown courage (to change), compassion (to learn how better to serve our parishes and institutions), and commitment (to a challenging task that not everybody embraced with joy. I particularly record my thanks to close colleagues – most of whom have moved on since 2014 – who bear the scars of all the changes; but, I am deeply grateful to all in this diocese who have served at every level with grace, humour, generosity and courtesy.

I realise that an address on Zoom is not ideal, so I will draw to a conclusion now. I am grateful to be a part of this synod and look forward to what will follow as we deliberate together in the name of the one who came among us, loves us, redeems us and always offers a future ... shaped like resurrection. As we walk the path of Jesus and his friends over the next couple of weeks, may we be refreshed, challenged and renewed by the God who, like with the couple on the road to Emmaus, find our confusions attended to by the risen Christ. In the words of Bruce Cockburn, who urges us not to forget about delight: "Love that fires the sun keep me burning."

The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines
Bishop of Leeds

16 March 2024

Diocesan Synod 16 March 2024 – Item 4 Questions for Synod

1 Question received from Graham Foster (Halifax and Calder Valley deanery)

“To the Chair of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance

I notice from the 2024 Parish Share assessment summary that in The Calder Valley and Halifax Deanery that there are 2 church that are closed for public worship which still have a parish share assessment attached to them totalling just under £31,000 for the year. This represents around 5% of the total Deanery assessment. How many churches in the Diocese which are closed for public worship still have Parish Share assessments allocated to them on the 2024 summary and what is the total assessment? This is an automatic underpayment of parish share at the year end? Whilst I appreciate there will be a cut off point when Parish Share assessments cannot be changed, is there anything that can be done about this in the future to avoid this automatic underpayment of parish share?”

“Parish Share requests are based on parish structures that are in existence at the time the requests are circulated to parishes (i.e. October of the preceding year). Should something change between then and the end of the share year (i.e. Church closure, deployment change, etc), the request would be amended as necessary.

The two churches referred to in the question are not officially closed under the Mission and Pastoral Measure – one is open for worship once per month and the second is closed on health and safety grounds, though a closure consultation is ongoing. If closure were to occur, the parish request would be reviewed as required.

Overall, whilst we look to identify and anticipate changes that are forthcoming that may impact a share request, we aim not to jump ahead of the formal processes but rather reflect the outcome of those.”

2 Question received from The Revd Robert Hart (Pontefract deanery)

“To the Chair of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance:

Considering the Church of England’s aim of becoming net zero by 2030, and the need for parishes to become more financially secure in relation to energy costs, what funding is available nationally for the installation of PV panels on all suitable church buildings, where the PCC wish to install such panels, and what assistance can be given in relation to the practical aspects of planning and installing solar panels?”

Funding

- The funding landscape is changing constantly and at this moment there are very few schemes that will fully fund PV panels. However, [environmental funding resources and advice](#) can be found on the diocesan website. In addition, we have received national church money to recruit a Carbon Net Zero funding officer whose focus will be on finding funding, and supporting churches to apply for it.

- The national church have committed to more money being released 2026 onwards for carbon net zero projects but it is not yet clear how it will be distributed. We continue to advocate for more. The funds we are aware of at present are:

- Diocese of Leeds Church Building fund – Grants of up to £5k for building improvements and environmental measures.

- Give to Go Green Match Funding - CofE Net Zero Funds.

The diocese has been part of the first national pilot and will be part of the second pilot in the summer. Parishes can apply for up to £10K of match funding for any net zero project which could include solar panels. 11 parishes in the Diocese of Leeds are receiving funding in the first pilot round.

- Energy Audit Programme - CofE Net Zero Funds

40 churches in the diocese who are on the national “Top 600 emitters list” will be being offered energy audits to enable them to draw up a net zero action plan. A £3K grant will then be given to undertake one of the recommendations. The recommendations could include installing solar.

Advice

- The Cathedral and Church Buildings team has provided general guidance for any PCC considering PV panels. This should be the starting point: [CCB SolarPV Guidance.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#).
- The DAC is available to offer pre-application advice; we will help PCCs through the full faculty application processes, including supporting on consultation with heritage bodies where required. Inspecting architects are also a valuable source of advice.
- We are building up a list of consultants/contractors we know have worked with other churches so that we can point PCCs towards relevant providers. In addition, we update the renewables map on the Church Heritage Record (which is viewable by anyone) and explore with the church if they are happy to act as a case study and/or give peer support to other churches. In this way, we make it easy for churches to find others they can talk to who have been through the process.
- We have also secured funding from the national church to engage a consultant who will be able to offer audits and other advice to up to 60 churches. This will be particularly helpful to those who have higher emissions. The scope of this support will include solar panels along with heating and other types of work. This service will help churches understand what is possible and recommended for their buildings. Invitations to tender have just gone out and we hope to be able to put the consultant to work in the second half of the year.

3 Question received from Mr Steve Jackson (Richmond deanery)

“To the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod:

How many Deanery Synod Lay Chairs retired in 2023 at the end of their second term in accordance with Diocesan rules?”

Deanery Synod Lay Chairs may serve for two consecutive terms of three years and one further term of three years with the agreement of the Deanery Synod (Deanery Synod Rules 2017 Rule 7). Compliance with the Deanery Synod Rules is for the Deanery Synod to monitor during its election processes. There is no Deanery Synod Rules reporting requirement for this and no data is retained by the diocese.

4 Question received from Mr Steve Jackson (Richmond deanery)

“To the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod:

What systems are in place to monitor the number of terms served by lay Deanery Synod members to monitor compliance with the General Synod ruling that Lay deanery synod members can only serve 2 consecutive terms?”

There is no general provision for a lay deanery synod member to serve no more than two terms under the Church Representation Rules. Unless a parish’s APCM approves a resolution to introduce this type of limitation (CRRs Rule M8 (5)) a person may serve consecutive terms if they still qualify. As with other elections held at an APCM, compliance with the Church Representation Rules is a matter for the Chair and members at the APCM of each parish.
