

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

26 November 2020



Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 26 November via Zoom. 86 members were present.

Welcome and Worship

The Archdeacon of Winchester led members in opening prayer.

The Bishop of Winchester welcomed members and took the opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of Carol Wolstenholme.

A Time to Share

Members had been invited to provide reflections on the recent months and a word cloud summarising the responses had been created. Sarah Boothman, Sarah Yetman and Nigel May were invited to share with the group one change, arising from the pandemic they would not wish to lose and something to celebrate.

2019 Annual Report and Accounts DS 20 06

The Bishop of Winchester introduced the report and thanked the Director of Finance and her team for all their work. The Director of Finance, Lisa Streeter, gave an overview of the annual review and financial statement for 2019, as adopted by the Directors of the WDBF at their meeting in July. She reported that:

- On page 23 of the report in the section captioned 'Staff Note' there was an error. Wages and salaries should read £1.588 million, this does not affect the primary statements.
- There were additional COVID relating disclosures required from the auditors, they were required to perform an assessment of the Diocese as a going concern. After reviewing the cashflow projections to June 2021 they were satisfied the Diocese had the resources to operate.
- The end of year operational deficit was largely due to a CMF collection rate of 93%

aMAP, Strategy Update and DRT Update DS 20 05

aMAP

The Bishop of Southampton and Bishop of Basingstoke updated members on the work taking place on the aMAPs. The 4 strategic priorities, set by Synod, have not changed and members were update on the progress made in the key areas prioritised in 2016. The Diocese is now in a new phase a strategic change to deliver the mission strategy, to achieve this new aMAPs would be developed using 6 key principles:

1. Encourage a network of churches to sustain our participation in the mission of God in this region
2. Grow additional sustainable churches:
 - a. Organically
 - b. Through planting/grafting
3. Where churches, or smaller Benefices, cannot find sustainability as they are, include them in larger Benefices
4. Feed and equip the whole body of Christ with targeted support

5. Work together to focus and adapt our Diocesan central support activity for growth in our mission and ministry

6. Deepen our public, global and missional engagements as a Diocese

Members discussed sharing the lessons learnt from the Benefice of the Future pilots and the work around fresh expressions of church.

Diocesan Resilience Taskforce (DRT) Update

The Bishop of Southampton spoke to the presentation and updated members on the work of the DRT. The group looked at options to achieve the required budgetary savings made necessary due to poor CMF collection levels that had been compounded by the pandemic. Savings would be made in both the central office costs (a reduction of £0.75m) and in parish posts (savings of £1.25m- 22 FTE stipends). Many of these savings would be achieved using existing vacancies or retirements, any clergy affected by the proposals would be contacted personally by their Suffragan Bishop in the coming weeks to start discussions. She clarified to members these savings would create a balanced budget if giving levels returned to that of 2019.

She explained the mission and pastoral process to members, including the many opportunities for formal consultation contained within. In addition to that meetings had already been held with deanery leadership teams to work on the proposals at a local level. The proposed pastoral reorganisation had been approved by the DMPC and each individual scheme would now be progressed through the legal process.

Clergy Covenant and Wellbeing DS 20 08

The Archdeacon for Winchester introduced the resources that had been made available on the national church website. The clergy covenant would be brought back to Synod at a meeting in 2021 for formal adoption. Members split into breakout groups to discuss how Diocesan Synod could better support clergy wellbeing and to share personal examples of effective supervision and reflective practice.

Questions Under Standing Order 72

Nine formal questions had been received from Stephen Mourant, Charles Stewart, Rachel Noel, Sarah Boothman, James Pitkin, Gwilym Stone and Jane Thompson. A written response was issued by email to members on the day of the meeting. Additional questions had also been received from Rachel Noel and Stephen Mourant, written responses were issued for these. The Bishop of Winchester, the Chief Executive, the Bishop of Basingstoke, and the Archdeacon of Winchester addressed 6 supplementary questions.

The meeting closed with prayer.

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod March 2020