

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

22 March 2021



Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 22 March via Zoom. 76 members were present.

Welcome and Worship

The Dean led members in opening prayer.

The Bishop of Winchester welcomed members.

Promulgation of Amending Canons No 40 and 41

Amending Canons 40 and 41 was promulgated by the Chief Executive.

Presidential Address

The Bishop of Winchester gave the presidential address.

Diocesan Net Zero DS 21/01

The Archdeacon of Winchester, Chair of the Diocesan Environment Group (David Morgan) and Jacob Blamey (Hedge End, St Luke's) presented the paper and proposed action plan to members. The report includes a challenge for parishes to take practical action to reduce and offset carbon emissions and encouragement to appoint an Eco Champion. Members were shown resources available from the national church to support this, including the new energy footprint tool included with the Church of England parish returns.

Synod discussed the BCM- Creation Care, how best to encourage parishes to engage, examples of good practice already in place across the diocese and setting interim targets and baselines to track progress to 2030.

Members voted to adopt the approach to Diocesan Net Zero 2030 as outlined in the paper by a majority with 6 abstentions.

Anglican Giving Survey

Eleanor Stead, Deputy National Giving Advisor, presented the results of the survey that was conducted with 2000 Anglicans who consider themselves active supporters of the Church of England and attend church at least once a month. The key findings were:

- 1/3 of Anglican do not give to their church
- 40% had not been asked to give regularly
- Nearly half had never been asked to review their giving
- Only half has heard a sermon on giving in the past 12 months
- Less than a third had been regularly thanked

From the results survey the national giving team had make 5 recommendations to parishes:

- Regularly communicate the 'Need' and 'Impact' of giving in your church
- Join and promote a Direct Debit / Standing Order monthly giving scheme
- Ensure your church has the technology to promote and process digital gifts
- Provide information about why legacies are needed
- Ensure givers are formally thanked at least once a year for their giving

Members then considered in small groups how to address the results of the survey and adopt the recommendations in their own parishes. The Bishop of Basingstoke reminded members of the resources available for Generous June and encouraged parishes to get in touch with the Diocesan Stewardship and Resources Advisor.

Living in Love and Faith

The Bishop of Basingstoke updated members. On the 13th January a virtual study day was held, led by Eeva John, that had over 250 participants in attendance. He was encouraged by the number of parishes engaging with the process and reported that 9 members of clergy from the diocese have signed up to attend facilitator training.

DRT Update

The Bishop of Southampton spoke to the presentation, describing to members the process of pastoral reorganisation and current progress. As communication and consultation is key to the process, each proposed scheme is presented to the PCC as a group with an opportunity for questions of clarity. Attendees are then sent information packs and a second meeting of the PCC is held a few weeks later providing the opportunity for feedback. She commented on how difficult the process has been, and continues to be, for all involved and also noted the graciousness shown by those affected.

Matthew Trick shared his experience of the process as an Assistant Area Dean.

Alastair Barron updated members on the ongoing role of the DRT to monitor and have oversight of the processes that have been set in motion.

Questions Under Standing Order 72

Nine formal questions had been received from Stephen Mourant, Ian Fletcher, Gwilym Stone, Jay Greene, Rachel Noel, Michael Minton and Peter Hoadley. A written response was issued by email to members on the day of the meeting. The Bishop of Winchester, the Chief Executive, the Bishop of Basingstoke, the Bishop of Southampton and the Archdeacon of Winchester addressed 12 supplementary questions.

The meeting closed with prayer.

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod November 2020