

SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD

**MINUTES OF THE 107th SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT
AMESBURY BAPTIST CHURCH SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2012**

1 Opening Service and Presidential Address

The Bishop of Ramsbury led the Opening Service.

The Bishop gave his Presidential Address on the scripture: "Let the same mind be in you as in Christ Jesus", Philippians 2 v 5.

A full copy of the presidential address is available from the web-site at www.salisbury.anglican.org or from fiona.torrance@salisbury.anglican.org at the Diocesan Office.

2 Apologies: 13 from the House of Clergy and 15 from the House of Laity

Co-options: House of Clergy: The Revd Michael Turner, the Very Revd Alan Woods (Clergy Retirement Officers for the Diocese) and the Revd John Cowburn (Chaplain to Deaf People)

House of Laity: Mrs Ann Howard and Mrs Andrea Fox (Diocesan President and Vice-President (resp), The Mothers' Union.)

3 What is the personality of the diocese?

The Bishop gave a presentation entitled 'Let us Talk about the Personality and Character of the Diocese. This is a result of the impressions the diocese has made on the Bishop during his first year. He wishes to find out if his observations have any resonance in the parishes.

The Bishop invited those in the Diocese to engage, think and articulate our priorities, in order to have a diocese fit to meet the challenges of the 21st century. He also outlined the Church of England's priorities for 2010- 2015 which are:

- i) To take forward the spiritual and numerical growth of the Church of England including the growth of its capacity to serve the whole community of this country;
- ii) To re-shape or re-imagine the Church's ministry for the century coming, so as to make sure that there is a growing and sustainable Christian witness in every local community; and
- iii) To focus our resources where there is both greatest need and greatest opportunity.

He left three questions to be answered by groups:

- 1) Do you recognise the Personality and the Character of this Diocese? What would you like the Diocese to be known for in 5 years time?
- 2) Are the Church of England's priorities right for us? What might they mean for your local church?
- 3) Can this presentation be issued as a consultation document to Benefices and Deaneries, inviting them to respond to the Diocesan Secretary not later than the end of April 2013?

After his presentation the Synod divided into groups to discuss the presentation and these questions.

Feed-back

In the feed-back from the groups the reaction was mostly positive. There was some doubt about the tight time lines but Bishop emphasised that he did not wish to lose the momentum on this and asked the benefices and deaneries to respond by April 2013. The summary of conversations in the groups

was collected and will be used to amend the presentation and to be combined with feedback from benefices and parishes.

He moved the following motion:

That Salisbury Diocesan Synod endorses the Bishop's presentation on the Personality and Character of the Diocese: takes note of the debate in Synod on 3 Nov 2012; requests that his presentation be issued as a consultation document to Benefices and Deaneries; and invites them to respond to the Diocesan Secretary not later than the end of April 2013.

The motion was passed with none against and two abstentions.

A copy of the revised presentation and a covering letter from the Bishop is available on the Diocesan web-site.

4 Christian Aid Tax Justice

Two Christian Aid workers (Anna Potts whose area includes Wiltshire and Stephen Dominy whose area includes Dorset) gave a presentation on Tax Justice. They reminded the Synod that Christian Aid belongs to the Churches, and the network of links to local churches is crucial. They have Partnerships for Change with local people in over 50 countries. In the Partnerships Christian Aid does not send materials and goods but resources, so that goods can be acquired locally and this adds to the local economy.

Giving money is vital as there is a need for redistribution of wealth and prayer to end poverty.

Tax Justice Campaign

Many multi-national companies pay no tax at all in the poorer countries. It is estimated that multi-nationals are avoiding tax that is 1.5 times the total amount given in aid.

Christian Aid have lobbied the government, the International Accounting Standards Board, FTSE 100 companies, the 4 biggest accountancy firms, UK government and EU and the G20. So far 4 UK companies have pledged support and the Parliamentary, International Development Select Committee Report recommends country by country reporting for UK companies so as to end company and tax haven secrecy.

The tax bus has brought the campaign to local church leaders and politicians.

What can be done now and the future?

Suggestions may be found on the Christian Aid Website.

In 2013 a coalition of the major aid agencies will campaign on "Enough food for everyone if....."

There were a couple of questions, the major one asking how much Christian Aid spent on campaigning as opposed to feeding the hungry.

The Bishop summed up the campaign on tax justice as a complex campaign with a simple central message: Multi-nationals are not paying tax in the poorer countries and there is a need for transparency. It is important to learn more from the Christian Aid website.

5 The Cathedral

The Dean gave the Annual report on the Cathedral for the year 2011/2012. She informed the Synod that the Cathedral Report will now be given to Synod in November rather than February as it is closer to the time when the annual report has been approved by Chapter.

The main priority for the Cathedral was the daily cycle of worship and prayer; this is reflected in the excellence of the boys and girls choirs. The documentary, "Angelic Voices" showed off the choirs to the best effect. (The Queen confided that she and the Duke had seen it twice).

The choirs were keen to come out and do visits to parishes, all for the cost of being fed.

Social justice and Amnesty are also close to the Cathedral's heart and a prisoner of conscience is prayed for each day.

Outreach:

It is a place of wonder, a flagship, a spiritual beacon and a place of life and work.

The Dean then gave the following statistics for 2011:

1,115 Acts of Worship, 111 Concerts and events, 11% increase in visitors. (This year has seen decreased numbers over the summer).

13 Baptisms, 271 Confirmations and 32 Ordinations.

3,598 attended Christmas day services and there were 1,240 Easter Communicants.

Education:

270 events, attended by 9,177 people.

The highest number of families attended the Christmas and summer activities.

Fabric:

Major Repair Programme is now 85% complete. Planning permission has been obtained for the Little Paradise site to provide new toilets and storage.

Two apprentices who have completed their training have been admitted as Yeoman Masons in the Worshipful Company of Masons.

Clergy :

There has been a big change in the senior staff. The Revd Tom Clammer has taken over as the Canon Precentor and the Revd Sarah Mullally as Canon Treasurer.

Forthcoming Events:

The Dean outlined forthcoming events including the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta which takes place in 2015 and in which there will be Diocesan involvement.

These can be seen on the Cathedral's website.

6 Models of Ministry for Mission:

The Bishop of Sherborne, Chairman of the Mission Council, introduced a debate on Models of Ministry for Mission (paper circulated prior to meeting) and moved the following motion:

That Salisbury Diocesan Synod approves the proposals embodied in the "Models of Ministry and Mission" 12 Oct 2012 paper.

He emphasised that we need to face facts about the decline in numbers in the Church of England and in the Diocese of Salisbury. This was followed by a speech by the Archdeacon of Sarum who will spend two days a week on looking at new ways of working that may be more effective for the early 21st century (a copy of the Archdeacon's speech is available on the Diocesan web-site).

When the debate was opened up to the floor, there was one point of clarification.

Mr Geoff Taylor (Chalke) was disappointed that there was no mention of the DBE and The Children and Young People's Study.

The Revd Vanessa Herrick (Wimborne) stated that there was a need to think in parallel about what is going on now but thinking ahead on pastoral reorganisation and financial and strategic planning.

There was a request to remember the 51% of parishes with under 30 members and not only to concentrate on youth, children and families.

The Bishop of Sherborne summed up the debate and the motion was passed with none against and no abstentions.

7 Changes to Archdeaconry Boundaries:

The Archdeacon of Dorset introduced a motion that **"Salisbury Diocesan Synod approves the transfer of Heytesbury Deanery from the Archdeaconry of Wilts to the Archdeaconry of Sarum."**

The Archdeacon of Dorset related that now the new Archdeacon of Wilts has been appointed and the changing responsibilities of the Archdeacon of Sarum it was right to rebalance the Archdeacons. Currently Wilts has 6 deaneries and Sarum 4. He therefore proposed that Heytesbury, which had moved from the Sarum Archdeaconry in 2002, should be moved back to the Sarum Archdeaconry.

The lay chair of Heytesbury (Richard Southwell) thought that the decision to move the motion was extraordinary as the Deanery had not been consulted, He said this is no way to do business if the Diocese wishes to take people with them.

The lay chair of Stonehenge Deanery (Sarah Gooch) retorted that Richard Southwell knew about the plans when they met on 14 Oct and that the reorganisation made sense.

The Archdeacon of Dorset responded that, there would be consultation with those concerned but this motion meant that consultation didn't have to be carried out with all parishes in Wilts and Sarum Archdeacons.

The motion was passed with 2 against and 26 abstentions.

8 The Synod took note of the finance report for September 2012.

9 Suggestions for Future Business:

The following suggestions were made for the Bishop's Council to consider:

- a Request for a progress report on children's and young peoples' strategy. The Diocesan Secretary reported that this is already planned for Feb 2013.
- b How church receives and gives hospitality to autistic people.
- c Disability Issues.
- d Issues on Sexuality (The Diocesan Secretary reported that this was waiting for House of Bishops' report before being brought to Synod).
- e Mission and ministry to the elderly.
- f Principles drawn from the Sudan link that may help future discussions regarding the Anglican Communion Covenant.
- g Due to the lack of affordable housing in rural areas many young and elderly have to move away from their home communities. Can the Church do anything about it?
- h How can we support those in isolated rural areas?
- j Ministry of the laity in the work place.

10 Questions

There were no questions.

The Synod ended with the saying of The Grace at 1445.