

Minutes

Meeting Name: 132nd Session of the Diocesan Synod and Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance
Meeting Date: 17 October 2020
Venue: Virtual by Zoom
Times: 10 am – 12 noon

Virtual Meeting Hosts: Elizabeth Harvey, Lucy Norbury

Item	Description
1.	Meeting Opening
1.1	<p>Prayers were led by the Revd Canon Lucy Holt.</p> <p>The Bishop delivered the Presidential Address, a copy of which is available on the Diocesan website at www.salisbury.anglican.org.</p> <p>Members were informed that a link to the recording of the meeting would be available afterwards on request.</p> <p>The Bishop reported no candidates had come forward by the due date to fill the vacant House of Clergy Chair position; the deadline for nominations was therefore extended up to 5 pm on 27 October. Bishop's Council, as Synod Standing Committee, would be asked to decide on the new election process and timetable at its meeting on 29 October.</p>
1.2	Apologies were received from 9 clergy and 3 laity.
1.3	There were no conflicts of interest reported.
1.4.1	Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 10.9.20.
1.4.2	Matters Arising - None.
2.	Matters for Decision
2.1	<p>Diocesan Budget 2021</p> <p>The Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) introduced the budget which he described as a transitional, holding-steady budget and which included proposals to reduce clergy posts by 4 and central staff costs by 10%. The Director of Finance and Asset Management talked through the papers and also spoke of plans to gain a better understanding of parish finances.</p> <p>The ensuing discussion touched on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether budget assumptions might be overly optimistic. • The need to develop new tools to facilitate income from congregations and (potentially world-wide) audiences in the new, online Church situation. • The need for more work on a diocesan Vision that people will want to support, including a strategy for mission and ministry and a corresponding pastoral plan. • The importance of maintaining morale.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fact that all areas of diocesan expenditure should be open to challenge with no posts considered off-limits for scrutiny. <p>The Chairman DBF then moved: “That the Diocesan Board of Finance/Synod approves the annual Budget for 2021.”</p> <p>The motion was carried with 66 votes in favour, 1 against and 22 abstentions.</p>
2.2	<p>DAC revised Quinquennial Inspection Scheme and Constitution.</p> <p>The DAC Chairman introduced the amendments which reflected new guidance from the Church Buildings Council. He reported that the Diocesan Chancellor had made some suggestions for improving the presentation of the documents since the meeting papers had been circulated, but these did not materially change what was being presented to Synod.</p> <p>After Synod discussion, the DAC Chairman moved: “That this Synod, in order to take account of The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2020, approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Salisbury DAC Constitution as revised September 2020, and The revised Salisbury Diocesan Scheme for the Inspection of Churches.” <p>The motion was carried with 75 votes in favour and 0 against. It was noted at this point that the 13 apparent abstentions were possibly due to members not yet having found the voting buttons.</p>
2.3	<p>Diocesan Synod Elections 2021.</p> <p>The Diocesan Secretary explained that this vote was a legal requirement in the run-up to the next Diocesan Synod Elections.</p> <p>The Chairman of the House of Laity moved on behalf of the Bishop’s Council:</p> <p>“That this Synod,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In order to ensure a majority for the House of Laity 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 26% of the membership of those Houses. 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 be Form 6 in Part 10 of Church Representation Rules, which is for elections to be decided by simple majority.” <p>The motion was carried with 83 votes in favour and none against.</p>
2.4	<p>Instruments of delegation of Clergy Discipline functions to the Area Bishops.</p> <p>The Bishop explained that such an Instrument was needed in case of conflict of interest or the Diocesan Bishop being unable to fulfil his/her role for any reason. The National Church was developing proposals to cover these eventualities, but nothing else was available yet.</p> <p>The Archdeacon of Dorset then moved: “That this Synod approves the Instruments of delegation of Clergy Discipline functions to the Area Bishops.”</p> <p>The motion was carried with 84 in favour and none against.</p>
3.	Matters for Noting
3.1	<p>Clergy Covenant.</p> <p>The Archdeacon of Sherborne Proclaimed the Act of Synod and explained that Diocesan Synods</p>

	<p>had been asked to also debate and adopt the Covenant. Covid19 had, however, intervened and the Covenant would instead be brought back to Synod at a more suitable point in the future.</p> <p>She asked that the link to the resources be circulated with the minutes.</p>
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4.	Matters for Discussion
4.1	<p>DBE Report</p> <p>The Director of Education and the Chairman DBE gave a snap-shot of the current life of the diocese's schools. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work going on to facilitate the online provision of teaching and training. • Support provided to schools around mental health and wellbeing. <p>In addition, they spoke of the statutory duties of the DBE and the fact that a new National DBE Measure is being developed and will be brought to Synod for deliberation in due course.</p> <p>Synod discussed and received the report.</p>

5	Meeting Finalisation
5.1	<p>Mr Nick Baker asked: "Children often play an active role in leading aspects of church services, especially at Christmas. Many churches are now live streaming video of all their services to include those who are not able to attend in person. The latest guidance from the diocesan registry in relation to live streaming states "do not allow children or young people to be visible."</p> <p>a. Does this mean that children and young people cannot play any active role in any service that is livestreamed, even if their parents give consent?</p> <p>b. If this is the case, have the diocesan safeguarding team been involved in the production of this advice, and is it their professional opinion that the potential risk to children and young adults is significant enough to warrant their exclusion from active participation in the services of many churches?"</p> <p>The Director of Education responded that Registry advice on this matter had now been refined. It was acceptable for children and vulnerable adults to take part in these services provided proper provisions were put in place. The formal guidance had been posted to the diocesan website and would also be circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>There were no further questions.</p>
5.2	AOB – None.
5.3	Next meeting – 13 February 2021 by Zoom.