

## Minutes

**Meeting Name:** 133<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Board of Finance  
**Meeting Date:** 13 February 2021  
**Venue:** Virtual by Zoom  
**Times:** 10 am – 12 noon

Virtual Meeting Host: Elizabeth Harvey

Item	Description
<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting Opening</b>
1.1	Prayers were led by the Revd Mike Tuffnell.  The Bishop welcomed the Revd Lydia Cook as the newly elected Chairman of the House of Clergy. He then delivered the Presidential Address which explored themes of change and how the Gospel transforms both lives and communities. A copy is available on the Diocesan website at <a href="http://www.salisbury.anglican.org">www.salisbury.anglican.org</a> .
1.2	Apologies were received from 3 clergy and 2 laity. The Diocesan Secretary promulgated Amending Canons 40 and 41 and the Archdeacon of Sarum explained the amendments.
1.3	There were no conflicts of interest reported.
1.4.1	Synod approved the minutes of the meeting on 17.10.20.
1.4.2	Matters Arising - None.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Matters for Decision</b>
2.1	Church life in the context of Covid -  The Bishop led a discussion around the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are we learning from this time? and</li> <li>- How is our Hope being Renewed through this time?</li> </ul> Feedback included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The positive aspects of re-evaluating what we do and focusing on essentials.</li> <li>• Whether the timing is right for a Giving Campaign.</li> <li>• Examples of strengthened Faith.</li> <li>• The need for increased connectivity and training around IT in our parishes, including a plea for the National Church to lead on this.</li> <li>• The potential for reaching out to more people through recordings, live streaming and social media.</li> <li>• The importance of prayer.</li> </ul> The Bishop invited Synod members to send him any further thoughts at <a href="mailto:bishop.salisbury@salisbury.anglican.org">bishop.salisbury@salisbury.anglican.org</a>
2.2	Mission and Pastoral Plan -

	<p>The Bishop of Ramsbury introduced the Plan as a “live” document and therefore not intended to be finished and fixed in time. Synod divided into groups to discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What do you think of the Plan? Is there anything you would like to add or amend?</li> <li>2. What are the key local issues that this Plan must address?</li> </ol> <p>Feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions around clergy numbers and the planning needed to manage these effectively.</li> <li>• The desire to encourage and affirm lay ministry.</li> <li>• The nature of “going local” and how this should be defined.</li> <li>• A request to review how the diocese coped during the pandemic so that we may learn and move forward.</li> <li>• How can we build up morale across the diocese?</li> <li>• How can we set some realistic growth targets and what initiatives should we be taking?</li> <li>• It would be helpful to have a page of definitions as the terminology is not always clear, especially for lay people.</li> </ul> <p>Synod then noted the draft Plan, received the comments relating to developing it further and endorsed the general direction of travel with 97 in favour, 2 against and 21 abstaining.</p>
2.3	<p>Net Zero -</p> <p>The Archdeacon of Sherborne reported that the Working Group had met twice so far. She introduced Joe Brindle (Students Organising for Sustainability) who spoke passionately about the climate crisis and about the Church’s responsibility to lead the way in the fight against climate change. He alerted Synod to a survey which showed the Church risked losing its young members over this issue because although 9/10 young people were concerned about climate change, only 1/10 felt the Church was currently doing enough to counteract it.</p> <p>The Archdeacon of Sherborne asked Synod members who had not already done so to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change to green electricity.</li> <li>2. Measure their carbon footprint (using 2019 figures).</li> <li>3. Get their churches to sign up to the EcoChurch awards because care for the Environment is about more than just Net Zero.</li> </ol>
2.4	<p>Functions, Constitution and Standing Order for Salisbury Diocesan Synod -</p> <p>Mr Richard Chitty reported that these had been updated to include the Channel Islands and to bring the wording in line with the updated Church Representation Rules and our current governance structures. The opportunity had also been taken to correct any typographical errors.</p> <p>Mr Richard Chitty then moved on behalf of the Bishop’s Council:  “That this Synod adopts the amended Functions, Constitution and Standing Orders for Salisbury Diocesan Synod.”</p> <p>The motion was carried with 118 in favour, none against and 2 abstentions.</p>
2.5	<p>Synodical elections –</p> <p>Elections to the General Synod will take place in 2021. Mrs Debbie McIsaac spoke to encourage lay members to engage with the electoral process and the Archdeacon of Sarum spoke to encourage the clergy members. It was noted that the election process will, for the first time, be handled via an online elections portal.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Meeting Finalisation</b>
3.1	<p>The Revd Pip Martin (Poole and North Bournemouth) asked, “I and many clergy recently attended a training event about a proposed diocesan stewardship campaign, about which I had previously been unaware. In subsequent correspondence, the Archdeacon of Dorset has helpfully responded to some of my detailed questions but I am still unconvinced of the wisdom of this initiative at present. Do you feel that the diocese has had sufficient time to learn profound lessons from this year of profound crisis and then make the kind of fundamental changes that will convince or even enthuse our church members to rise to the challenge of meeting parish share. Can you tell us, so that we can tell others, in what ways the diocese that emerges from the pandemic will be different and better than before?”</p> <p>The Bishop responded that one of the principles of the financial plan that had come to the previous Synod was the need to address financial issues. The Giving Campaign had been postponed until after his retirement due to Covid, but some parishes had said they were well-placed to go ahead and were already getting a good response. For this reason, resources were being made available immediately so that the timing of a campaign could be decided locally. Fundamentally it’s not a financial question, but a question of faith; people should be asked to contribute to what they believe in. It is likely that the formal campaign will now be rolled out in the autumn, although we need to keep checking, learning and adjusting to meet the local need.</p> <p>There were no further questions.</p>
3.2	<p>With the recent announcement of the Bishop’s retirement, the Dean, as Chairman of the Vacancy in See Committee, explained the process for appointing a new Bishop and asked for the prayers of his synodical colleagues for this process. The Committee will have its first meeting on 22 February.</p>
3.3	<p>AOB – Members were invited to send any further comments on how these Zoom meetings have been working to the Diocesan Secretary <a href="mailto:david.pain@salisbury.anglican.org">david.pain@salisbury.anglican.org</a>.</p> <p>Next meeting – 22 June 2021 (evening) AGM.</p> <p>Remaining meetings for the year –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 15 September (evening) Budget</li> <li>- 6 November (replacing 16 October)</li> </ul>