

## DIGEST Diocesan Synod 20 June 2015

1. The Revd Tim Norwood led members in 'Dwelling in the Word' (Luke 10: 1-12).
2. The Bishop of Dorchester welcomed Synod members. He also welcomed Peter Morgan, New Communities Development Officer. He explained that Canon Sue Booy and Judith Scott (Chairs of House of Clergy and Laity respectively) had both sent apologies.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2015 were approved.
4. Mark Burton had asked in a question whether it would be possible to have access to the raw data on church attendance as well as Electoral Rolls. The Bishop of Dorchester agreed that good statistical data was needed, and that there were concerns about the accuracy and completeness of the data returned by parishes in the Diocese of Oxford. In order to facilitate better planning, the Diocese has recently acquired grant funding which will fund a part-time one year post specifically to work with parishes on improving data.
5. The Bishop of Dorchester delivered an 'end of term' Presidential address. He thanked all those volunteers and staff who had supported the work of the Synod over the last three years. He spoke of the disappointment that the CNC had failed to nominate a new Bishop of Oxford. There would be some work needed to refresh the paperwork, and interviews would take place in March 2016. The diocese would not sit still, but press ahead with key appointments; working to resource the archdeaconry Mission Action Plans; and considering the national 'Reform and Renewal' agenda. Meanwhile the diocese needed to continue in efforts to 'disagree well' over challenging subjects such as sexuality.
6. Simon Richards, a member of the Bishop's Council spoke to the annual reports of the diocesan boards, councils and committees, which gave a flavour of the work undertaken last year to achieve the Living faith purpose. Synod 'took note' of the reports.
7. The Synod adjourned for a General Meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance in which they adopted the Directors Report and Accounts for 2014 and approve the appointment of Critchleys Accountants LLP as auditors for the coming year. The Synod then reconvened.
8. The draft budget for 2016 was presented and approved in outline.
9. The Synod voted to amend the constitution of the Buildings committee in response to the creation of the Dorchester archdeaconry. (some people may think we've created another one!)
10. The Synod approved the revised constitution of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, which passes its functions to the Bishop's Council, the purpose of which is to more closely link strategy and resources.

11. Peter Morgan and the Archdeacon of Oxford gave a presentation on the outreach work being done in areas of new housing across the diocese. A series of forums are taking place in September (22 September, Bicester; 26 September, Aylesbury; 30 September, Finchampstead) – <http://odbf.co.uk/ncg-presentation> : <http://odbf.co.uk/new-communities>

12. The Bishop of Buckingham presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, drawing attention to the complexity of the world of education and the importance to the Kingdom.

13. The meeting closed with a time of reflection, led by John Sykes and prayer.