

Summary for the web

The Diocesan Synod met on Saturday 14 November.

Before the main meeting of the Diocesan Synod, members met for elections. The Revd John Tattersall was re-elected as Chair of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (ODBF) and Mr Michael Hardman was re-elected as Vice Chair. Judith Scott was elected as Chair of the House of Laity and the Revd Canon Sue Booy was elected Chair of the House of Clergy.

1. OPENING WORSHIP

On behalf of the Amersham Deanery, the Revd Camilla Walton led synod members in a period of 'Dwelling in the world' based around Philippians 1:27 to 2: 1-10.

2. NOTICES AND WELCOME

The Bishop of Dorchester welcomed the new synod, and especially newcomers. He indicated that there remained some vacancies on the boards and committees of the Synod, and said that there would be a second round of elections. Nomination forms were available.

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW GENERAL SYNOD MEMBERS

The Bishop of Dorchester welcomed the recently elected General Synod members. They are: the Revd Samuel Allberry, the Revd Dr Andrew Atherstone, the Revd Jonathan Beswick, the Revd Canon Susan Booy, the Revd Prof Mark Chapman, The Revd Canon Charlie Cleverly; The Ven. Karen Gorham, the Revd Canon Rosie Harper, the Revd Kate Stacey; the Rt Hon Canon Sir Tony Baldry, Dr Andrew Bell. Mr Graham Caskie, Miss Prudence Dailey, Mrs Julie Dziegiel, Mr Gavin Oldham, Ms Jayne Ozanne, Mrs Kathryn Winrow.

4. PROMULGATION OF AMENDING CANON No 35

Amending Canon No. 35 was promulgated.

5. PROMULGATION OF A NEW ACT OF CONVOCATION RELATED TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE CLERGY

The Act of Convocation was promulgated. The Bishop of Dorchester noted that the new guidelines had been sent to all clergy in September 2015.

6. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Bishop of Dorchester gave a Presidential Address which is available in full on the diocesan website (www.oxford.anglican.org/diocesansynod).

7. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 20 June 2015 were approved.

8. QUESTIONS

Penny Keens asked a question about the membership of the Crown Nominations Commission. Since there had been a recent election of the General Synod, was it right that the same group of people were still representing the Diocese of Oxford? The Bishop of Dorchester responded that the circumstances were unusual, but that the legislation required that membership of the CNC was frozen until the selection process was completed. Mrs Keens said that this was unsatisfactory, and asked the General Synod to see what could be done. The Bishop replied that this process was in train. (For the written answer in full, please see our website: www.oxford.anglican.org/diocesansynod).

9 RESOURCING THE MISSION OF THE DIOCESE: PLANNING AND PRIORITIES THROUGH THE ARCHDEACONRIES

The four Archdeacons gave a presentation about their archdeaconry Mission Action Plans (available online at www.oxford.anglican.org/atoz/a/). Their presentation included a DVD with some examples of the way some of the Plans are working out on the ground. This is also available on the website, with the presentation (www.oxford.anglican.org/diocesansynod).

10 AN INTRODUCTION TO DIOCESAN FINANCES BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOLLOWED BY APPROVAL OF 2016 REVENUE BUDGET AND 2017/19 PROJECTIONS, AUTHORISATION OF EXPENDITURE AND DEANERY SHARE APPORTIONMENT ODS15.12

The Chair of ODBF, the Revd John Tattersall, gave an introduction to diocesan finances.

The Chair went on to present the 2016 budget and to ask for Synod's approval. He pointed out that it was difficult to estimate clergy vacancies accurately, but that these had been adjusted downwards for 2016. The overall increase was 1.25% although this was an average.

A number of members raised issues related to the budget and their deanery's difficulty in meeting the amount requested.

He moved the motion:

"That this Synod –

a Approves and adopts the 2016 budget set out below and in the accompanying papers;

b Authorises the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in 2016 a sum not exceeding the following net amounts;

c Requests that such expenditure be financed in part by deanery share apportionments for 2016 based on the figure of £18,431K being net of allowances for rebates and under-collection (Head 6);

d Notes, in the accompanying papers, the projections of income and expenditure for 2017 to 2019."

The synod voted in favour of the motion by a clear majority.

11. UPDATE ON THE MOVE OF THE DIOCESAN OFFICES

There was a short presentation on the progress of the move and the new facilities by Rosemary Pearce Diocesan Secretary and David Mason, Director of Glebe and Buildings gave a presentation on the move. (The presentation in full is available online at www.oxford.anglican.org/diocesansynod).

12 REFLECTION The Revd Skye Denno gave a reflection on the morning's business.

13 CLOSING PRAYERS Closing prayers were led by the Bishop of Dorchester.