

Diocesan Synod MINUTES

Meeting Date:	21st June 2022
Times:	1800 - 2030
Venue:	St Paul's, Salisbury

Item	Description	Action Outcome / Initial
1	Welcome and opening worship	
	<p>The House of Laity Chair welcomed members and thanked Bishop Karen for her time as Acting Bishop of Salisbury. Worship was led by The House of Clergy Chair, Revd Andy Perry with Revd Mark Hay.</p>	
2	Presidential Address	
	<p>The House of Laity Chair introduced Bishop Stephen (+S) – the 79th Bishop of Salisbury.</p> <p>In his presidential address +S mentioned that he and his wife Carol has been ‘bowled over by the welcome we received’. +S shared some of the inspirational stories following his gift and invitation during the Inauguration – “This £10 talent is for you to take home and to make it grow as a sign of the Kingdom of God.” – #salisburysgottalent.</p> <p>Link to full text +S address: Presidential Address</p> <p>Headlines from the presidential address:</p> <p>The Diocese of Salisbury can be and should be one of the jewels in the crown of the Church for England. We ought to be leading the way in generosity and evangelism, in social engagement and community resilience. To do this requires understanding the future we are already in and deciding together what we are going to do about it. This is a theological task, a leadership task and an organisational task for our time and place.</p> <p>We need a good strategy that fulfils the priorities of the Gospel today that is an investment in who we are and who we can be.</p> <p>The task is clear. Pastoral care and evangelism need to go hand in hand. The bishop must be ambitious, must ensure alignment and action, and together we must hold ourselves accountable to God and to each other.</p> <p>+S identified five areas that require focus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accountable leadership 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Effective governance 3. Moving into our calling in Mission and Ministry 4. Establishing sustainable finance 5. How do we stay afloat whilst we change direction (in relation to the deficit). <p>The church needs to be present, to be curious about the common good and then re-imagine how we serve God’s people.</p> <p>‘Your Kingdom Come – Here and Now’. +S suggested as a working title for what we need to do. God’s Kingdom, a present reality and a fulfilment to come, here and now, in every parish, every school, every community – brought in here and now by us, the agents of the Kingdom of God.</p>	
	Apologies and Quorum	
	Apologies were received from 11 clergy and 21 laity; with an attendance of 3 Bishops, 47 clergy and 27 laity – this meeting was quorate.	
3	AGM of the Diocesan Board of Finance	
	<p>Outgoing Chair of the DBF – Nigel Salisbury (NS) introduced the AGM section of the meeting – an encouraging story with progress and innovation in the DBF.</p> <p>Liz Ashmead (LA) gave an overview of the accounts (accompanied by slides (Accounts Slides)</p> <p>Salient points on the 2021 DBF annual accounts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall positive movement in funds by £2.8m mainly due to investments increasing in book value (most of this increase has already been ‘lost’ in Q1 of 2022 due to the volatile markets) • The balance sheet is strong at £128m which gives us options, however, 72% / £92m is tied up in clergy property • Of investments £34m, 26% (£12m) is Glebe and although we have a disposal strategy for part of this it is not a very liquid asset. Cash if needed can only come from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sale of surplus clergy houses (not many) ○ Sale of investments (not advisable at present and we are reliant on investment income) ○ Sale of Glebe lands (some development potential and some sales prospects 2023-2024) • Our current surplus cash will quickly be used in 2022-24 by the structural deficit and the bank loan repayment • The external auditors are currently content that the DBF is a going concern as we have some options to utilise our assets such as investments, glebe and the sale of Church house; we have a plan to eliminate the deficit by 2025; total return does give us a bit more security/options but must be carefully used 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unapplied total return of £19.1m in not a magic money tree <p>Members were asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Report and Financial Statements 2021 – The Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance moved: “That the Diocesan Board of Finance receives the Directors’ and Trustees’ Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.” <p>Appointment of auditors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of Auditors - The Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance moved: “That the Diocesan Board of Finance approves the appointment of Haysmacintyre as the auditors for the Diocesan Board of Finance.” 	<p>Approved unopposed</p> <p>Approved unopposed</p>
4	Net Zero	
	<p>ADSh updated members on activities and resources which are available at diocesan and national level and asked everyone to complete the energy footprint tool.</p> <p>AdSh Net Zero information can be found here: Net Zero</p>	
5	Aldhelm Fund	
	<p>Bishop Karen gave a presentation to members about the Aldhelm Fund. Over the course of 17 years over £850,000 has been given to the local church for local mission from the fund, none of which has come from parish share, fees, glebe or property income.</p> <p>+K highlighted two things: firstly what the local church can do with seed corn funding, and some of the projects the fund has helped through the years, and secondly the fund itself. The fund is open for applications!</p> <p>+K presentation: Aldhelm Fund</p>	
6	Questions	
	No questions were received.	
7	Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of DBF	
	<p>The following were elected unopposed: DBF Chair – Mrs Jane McCormick DBF Vice-Chair – The Revd Peter Ostli-East</p> <p>The Diocesan Secretary and Bishop of Sherborne made a presentation to the outgoing DBF Chair (Nigel Salisbury) to thank him for his dedication and service in this role.</p> <p>AdD who is stepping down as vice-chair of the FinCo was thanked for his service.</p>	
8	AOB	
	<p>Nothing raised. The next meeting is at St Nicholas, Corfe Mullen on Saturday 24th September 2022 from 10:00 – 15:00.</p> <p>The meeting ended with a blessing from the Bishop of Salisbury.</p>	