



Minutes – Diocesan Synod

Meeting Date	12 th October 2024
Times	1000 – 1530
Venue	The Gryphon School, 58 St Aldhelm's Road, Sherborne. DT9 4EQ

Item	Description	Action Outcome / Initial
1	Welcome, Introduction to the proceedings, apologies and notices	
	<p>+Stephen welcomed all to the meeting, the first of this new triennium.</p> <p>Apologies were received from 20 laity and 17 clergy members meaning this meeting was quorate.</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were raised.</p> <p>Minutes from the meeting held on the 24th July 2024 were approved.</p>	Approved
2	Election of the DBF Vice Chair	
	<p>The candidates were given the opportunity for Synod to hear from them and receive questions. They were then asked to leave the meeting whilst a vote took place.</p> <p>Results were: Cedric Pierce– 45 Kevin Peto–Bostick– 34</p> <p>Committee vacancies: Members were encouraged to consider offering their gifts, skills and time to be part of one of the following governing bodies and can email parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org should they require any further information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 lay member from the Ramsbury area required for the Discipleship Vocations and Ministry Committee• 2 persons required for the People Committee, one to be a clergy	<p>Cedric Pierce elected as Vice Chair</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Patronage (election process) • 1 clergy person required for General Synod – this is being handled by CIVICA and details had been sent to clergy electors. 	
3	Eucharist and Presidential Address	
	<p>+Stephen led Eucharist and shared his presidential address; In the fullness of time – moving from lamentation to Resurrection, referencing Canon Paul Bradbury’s book:</p> <p><i>‘In the Fullness of Time’ is a reflection about the past, the present and future of the church in our challenging context; a secular age, decline, stretched resources and complex and fragmented communities. Several of the places and the people Paul writes about are from this diocese. He thanks great Anglican names like David Baldwin, Jo Neary, Hilary Bond, Lucy Bolster and two promising clergy called Karen and Andrew. With deep roots in the church of our landscape Paul weaves an understanding and affection for the past, with an insightful recognition of the present times, and a vision for the future. In all, it is a book about trust. Trust in God, trust in our communities which constantly change whether we like it or not, and trust in the passage of time, God’s time.</i></p> <p>Read all of +Stephen’s address here.</p>	
4	Shared expectations and networking opportunity	
	<p>Survey feedback form the previous triennium was shared with all prior to the meeting. Members were asked in their groups (deanery) to discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What three things can we do and commit to as deanery synod reps to be effective in our role? <p>Plenary feedback included: Being present, listening well, good communication, relevancy, prayer, active engagement and a strong desire to strengthen relationships.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Which topics would you/your deanery like to discuss at future synod meetings? <p>Members used Slido (an audience interactive App) to submit topics and the output can be accessed here.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. What questions do you have for the President or others about expectations or running of this synod? 	

	Members submitted questions using Slido, some were answered whilst +Stephen offered to respond to the remainder in due course and share this with members.	
5	Salisbury Cathedral Annual Report	
	Dean Nick shared the Cathedral annual report with Synod.	Received
6	Synod Questions	
	<p>Questions were submitted prior to the meeting and answers were shared with all (and can be found here).</p> <p>Supplementary questions were received from:</p> <p>Oliver Illife regarding glebe – is there a strategy for the disposal of agricultural land? Response from Director of Finance and Asset Management that the glebe strategy is currently under review by the Finance & Resources Committee. This is a complex area, best managed in consultation with local communities.</p> <p>Mike Tuffnell regarding use of Ephesians Fund for ‘net receiving’ churches. DBF Chair reinforced the governance reasons for not wishing to encourage restricted donations in Share payments.</p>	
7	Making Jesus Known Vision and Strategy	
	<p>Background papers were shared prior to the meeting on National Church vision and outcomes, our diocesan vision along with the DBF budget guide for 2025 – these were taken as read by the members. (These can be found here.)</p> <p>DBF Chair introduced the session and reaffirmed our commitment to the ‘Total Economy’ that includes the resources of the DBF and all our parishes, as well as increased funding available from the national Church. The Chair commended the improved transparency and information available to members and parishes about the finances of the DBF and that this is helping to build trust as we navigate difficult and financially unsustainable times. It requires us to be courageous and collaborative as we seek to arrest and reverse decline and secure a sustainable Gospel driven legacy for future generations. We are considering co-investment and cross-diocesan collaboration as we seek different ways to support and serve our parishes.</p> <p>The Director of Comms introduced the consultation and ongoing work as we consider support and services that will help our parishes to flourish. Members used Slido to rank 10 activities in response to the question: ‘What needs to change to see thriving parishes that are revitalised for mission’.</p>	Discussions

	<p>Members also used Slido to submit comments in response to the question: ‘What is missing from the previous list that we should pay attention to and will help to revitalise our parishes for mission? See output here.. This information will be considered as part of our funding application to the national church in support of delivering our vision and strategy. Key themes from the discussion included a focus on leadership formation and ongoing support; collaboration of lay and ordained leaders and a focus on growing younger that includes the missing generations, as well but not just exclusively focus on children.</p> <p>+Karen concluded the session and asked members to move around the room and in pairs to discuss ‘How can we invite more people to participate in responding to the vision and applying it in their context?’ and ‘What are you doing in your deaneries to Make Jesus Known?’ Plenary feedback included: Knocking on doors – can we pray for you; Spending time with the Lord in prayer and reflection; being hopeful; encourage and listen to each other; building partnerships with others like the Sudans to share the Gospel and lived experiences; outreach groups; weekly reflection emails to local community; working in schools and with young people; working with the vulnerable in our society.</p>	
8	Governance	
8.1	<p>Synod received Bishop’s Council response to a Calne Deanery proposal regarding parochial fees for Lay Licenced Minsters (LLMs). +Karen explained that this has been discussed at the Bishop’s Leadership Team and Bishop’s Council and affirmed the gift of our lay leaders offering ministry. The aim of the updates to the Bishop’s Guidelines to Parochial Fees was to bring parity for PTO and LLM’s in line with ordained PTOs. Several members spoke for and against the changes to the guidelines in equal measure. It was agreed that there is broad consensus about the direction of travel and the suggested changes require further revision. To be considered for approval at a future Synod meeting.</p> <p>8.2</p> <p>Synod were asked to consider Section 23 scheme regarding representation of the Cathedral on Salisbury Deanery Synod – this was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Synod were asked to consider revised Section 24 Scheme to provide for representation of all Bishop’s Mission Orders</p>	<p>Further review required</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>

	(BMO's) on Deanery Synod – this was also unanimously approved.	
	Any Other Business	
	<p>15th March: In person 1000 – 1300 location TBC</p> <p>25th June (AGM): In person 1730 – 2000 location TBC</p> <p>11th October: In person 1000 – 1600 location TBC</p>	