

ELY DIOCESAN SYNOD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ely Diocesan Synod held at Ely College on Wednesday 12 June 2019 at 7pm

Canon Simon Kershaw, Chair of the House of Laity, in the Chair.

The meeting opened with Dwelling in the Word led by the Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh, assisted by the Revd Devin McLachlan and Mrs Elaine Levitt

1. **Apologies for Absence received** House of Clergy 23 House of Laity 19

Commissioning and notices: The following was commissioned by Bishop Stephen; The Revd Dr Jenny Gage as Bishop's Adviser for Self-Supporting Ministers

Canon Simon Kershaw, in the Chair, announced the **Promulgation of Amending Canon No. 38** to Synod.

2. The **Minutes** of Diocesan Synod held on 9 March 2019 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chair, Canon Simon Kershaw. There were no matters arising.

3. **Bishop's Business:** Bishop Stephen thanked all present for their condolences and prayers following his bereavement. He also formally thanked Frances Godden for her contribution to the Diocese as she returns to legal practice.

4. **Report from Bishop's Council:** the Diocesan Secretary presented his summary of the Bishop's Council proceedings held on 8 May 2019. There were no questions

5. **Annual Report 2018.** Copies of the recently printed Annual Report were distributed to members of Synod. Thanks were noted to James Owen and all staff members involved in its production. The Chair commended warmly the Report to Synod. The Annual Report 2018 can be found on the Diocese of Ely website: <https://www.elydiocese.org/article?id=2603>

Proposal to accept the Annual Report 2018

Proposed: Dr Arvan Pritchard Seconded: Canon Peter Maxwell
Agreed unanimously

6. **Raising the Spiritual Temperature and Growing Faith:** The Revd Canon Linda Church presented a distillation of comments from the meeting of Diocesan Synod held on 9 March 2019 and invited comments regarding the measurement of impact from those outputs.

Andrew Read, Diocesan Director of Education, Revd Sue Martin (Bishop's Officer for School Mission) and Mrs Debbie Hill (Children's Adviser) delivered their presentation on Growing Faith - see attached slidedeck.

7. **Standing Orders for Diocesan Synod:** the revised and updated Standing Orders for Diocesan Synod were presented. Prepared by a small working group, this document provides reference and guidance on the regulation and governance practices and procedures for Diocesan Synod members.

Proposal to accept the revised Standing Orders

Proposed: Revd Canon Wendy Thomson Seconded: Canon Janet Perrett
Agreed unanimously

8 **Ely2025:** Revd Canon Mike Booker (Bishop's Change Officer for Market Towns) and Adam Evans delivered an update on the progress of Changing Market Towns, highlighting the benefits gained from the employment of Operations Managers and positive trend data being collected. A second Stage 1 bid is being prepared for the Strategic Investment Board for a further six market towns - bid submission is expected in October 2019. The establishment of the Schools' Singing Project to enhance Phases 1 and 2 was also announced forming part of the second Strategic Development Funding bid. It is planned that this project will introduce groups of primary age young people across the Diocese to church and to choral music, to teach disadvantaged children about music and through this to bring them to faith.

9. **Business of the Diocesan Board of Finance.** The Revd Canon Brian Atling (BA), Chair of the Ely Diocesan Finance Committee, advised that a course for Parish Treasurers had taken place on 18 May 2019; that parishes' audited accounts are required to be sent to the Finance Department in the Diocesan Offices and that the Finance Department were in contact with the parishes in this regard.

BA reminded Synod that the Diocese had changed its auditors to haysmacintyre who had efficiently produced their first audit.

Proposal to set the auditors' remuneration

Proposed: Revd Canon Brian Atling Seconded: Mr Donald Ashmore

Agreed unanimously

Following the recommendation from Bishop's Council as Directors of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance, BA presented the 2018 Annual Accounts to Synod

Proposal to accept the 2018 Annual Accounts

Proposed: Revd Canon Brian Atling Seconded: Revd Devin McLachlan

Agreed unanimously

BA presented the Draft Budget for 2020-22 which has previously been circulated to the Deaneries for comment. Noting that the Budget for 2019 remained extremely tight (due to the number of clergy appointments made - vacancies currently being under the expected nine), margins will continue to be tight through 2020. He also advised that the greatest portion of Ministry Share is taken up by the costs of clergy (stipends and expenses). Any required balances are covered by investment income. Bishop Stephen advised that the Diocese is determined to pay full clergy stipend increases.

BA asked for Synod's agreement to the 2020-22 budget at this stage.

Proposed: Revd Canon Brian Atling Seconded: Revd Mark Amey

Agreed by majority There was 1 abstention

There being no further business, Synod closed with prayer at 8.55 pm.

The next meeting of Diocesan Synod will be held on Saturday 19 October 2019 in the Hayward Theatre, Kings School Ely, beginning with Eucharist at 9am.