

# DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

12 March 2020



Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 12 March 2020 at St Luke's Church, Hedge End. 47 members were in attendance.

## Welcome and Worship

Chris Kipling and the Rev'd Mat Phipps led members in worship.

The Bishop of Winchester welcomed members and thanked St Luke's' Church for their hospitality.

## Renewal & Reform

Canon Dr John Spence, Chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee, addressed the Synod. He discussed the Renewal and Reform agenda, fresh expressions of church and the nationwide financial uncertainty faced by many diocese. He explained the work being done by the Church Commissioner digital team to engage with young people and the vision to help children remain part of the church once they have left a Church of England primary school. The decline in parish income was discussed and members were encouraged to embrace new methods of giving. To aid this the Church Commissioners had committed funding for a 'Giving Advisor' to be employed by dioceses.

## Generous June DS 20/01

The Bishop of Winchester introduced Generous June, he updated Synod that in order to grow mission in the diocese freewill giving must increase. The Stewardship and Resources Adviser explained that Generous June was a new initiative being piloted between the dioceses of Winchester and Sheffield. Generous June aims to resource people in their parishes and communities to encourage giving and respond to a generous God.

Resources and further information would be available on the website [www.generousjune.co.uk](http://www.generousjune.co.uk).

## Questions Under Standing Order 72

A question had been received from the Rev'd Richard Harlow. A written response was issued at the meeting. The Bishop of Winchester and the Rev'd Mat Phipps addressed 2 supplementary questions.

## Deployment – Next Steps DS 20/04

The Rev'd Philip Krinks provided an update on the work that has been completed by the Deployment Development Group since November. The group had established 3 subgroups each to specifically focus on a key area (Change management and engagement, Support for Benefice Ministry Teams and Detailing Deployment changes in 2021-2022 for Benefices and Deaneries). A full report would be taken to Synod in June. The Chairs of the Houses thanked the group for all their hard work.

### General Synod Update DS 20/02

The Rev'd James Pitkin, member of the house of clergy, updated members on the February 2020 session of General Synod.

### Presidential Address

The Bishop of Winchester addressed Synod. He discussed the work on Living in Love and Faith and the plans for the Lambeth conference. He shared his hopes for more organised ministry and mission with Bishops from the Anglican Communion around the world. He explained to Synod the request for a new companion link with Chile. Members of Synod indicated their support for the Bishop to accept this request.

The Bishop expressed his desire that Winchester become a Silver Eco Diocese that would require 20 % of parishes to register with 10% awarded silver level.

### Group Discussion and Questions

Members discussed the topics of the meeting in their groups and raised the following points. These would be discussed by the business committee for consideration at a future meeting of Synod.

- Members requested regular updates of good news and practice from across the Diocese.
- How can the church be a beacon of hope in a locked down community?
- Is an SDF bid being considered for a project that would touch all the parishes?
- Is there enough diversity in the make up of the DDG subgroups?
- How does the church work to engage with young people?
- How many parishes currently hold the Eco Church award and at what level?

The meeting closed with prayer.

### DEEMED BUSINESS

*Approved nem con.*

- Acts of Synod November 2019
- DS 20/03 Net Zero 2030- Letter from the Bishop of Salisbury