

# DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

17 October 2019



Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 17 October 2019. 66 members were present.

The Bishop of Winchester proposed the motion.

Under standing order 60 the Chair of the House of Laity dispensed standing order 49 and suspended all other standing orders to enable all those present (synod members and guests) to contribute to the debate.

The Rev'd Philip Krinks spoke to the motion as Chair of the Deployment Working Group. He noted that the motion as drafted sought to enable the delivery of the priorities and strategic plans the Synod had previously agreed.

The Chair of the House of Laity invited Synod members and guests to engage in an open informal discussion around the motion, and invited Ms Carol Wolstenholme to facilitate this. A number of questions of clarification were raised from the floor with responses offered by the Chair of the Deployment Working Group (DWG), the Chief Executive and the Bishop of Winchester.

In discussion the meeting noted the opportunities and challenges that would arise from evolution of deployment, the importance of clarifying and communicating the changes, the need for considering the mental and physical wellbeing of all ministers and the priority to serve the poorest communities in the Diocese.

At the end of the informal discussion, the Chair of the House of Laity brought the Synod to order. Standing orders were reinstated and the motion was formally proposed by the Rev'd Angie Smith and Mr Alastair Barron. The Chair then opened the formal debate noting that only Synod members could participate in discussions and votes.

During the course of debate 4 specific amendments were put forward. After being voted on in turn by Synod members, these were accepted as amendments to main motion.

The final text of the motion, as amended, was shared with Synod:

**This Synod, as we continue 'becoming a mission-shaped Diocese', *living the Mission of Jesus*, and having in mind the 4 Strategic Priorities agreed in 2013 and 12 Mission Actions agreed in 2016, and now reflected in the Mission Action Plans of Deaneries, Benefices and Parishes and in Winchester: Mission Action –**

**A. Recommits itself to the mission of the whole people of God: to *sharing God's life* in the world; especially with the most marginalised and poorest in our society;**

**B. Offers encouragement and affirmation to all who minister in Christ's name, wherever and however they do so, including to those living out Mission Actions such as: *working for the Common Good; teaching the faith via Alpha, Pilgrim and in other ways; witnessing in Schools, Further and Higher Education Institutions; building international***

*mission partnerships; developing local Fresh Expressions; joining in public prayer and mission through Thy Kingdom Come; and living out a Rule of Life and encouraging others to do so;*

**C. Requests the Bishop, in enabling sustainable growth for the common good, to increase ministerial capacity and to align it to the agreed Priorities and Actions, working within the 3-Year financial plan agreed in July 2019 which Synod recognises requires continued generosity in Common Mission Fund contributions;**

**D. Requests the Bishop specifically from 2020-2022 to:**

- 1. Enable Benefices, wherever appropriate, to establish a Benefice Ministry Team (BMT) of lay and ordained ministers which is intentionally designed to use the gifts of all collaboratively in mission and ministry;**
- 2. Maintain and develop existing work to grow the number and range of lay ministers holding the Bishop's Commission for Mission and Bishop's Permission to Preach and as Licensed Lay Ministers and Licensed Lay Workers, and to discern new vocations to ordained and lay ministries;**
- 3. Evolve training for existing and new ministers and encourage them to understand their ministry more often as offered broadly and flexibly to the whole people of God through the Bishops, less often to a single Parish or Benefice;**
- 4. Seek funding for additional Curates from the scheme established by the Church Commissioners and provide the necessary Diocesan contribution;**
- 5. To continue to offer innovative deployment opportunities to Self-Supporting Ministers (SSMs), including a pilot to train a small number of SSMs with gifting and vocation discerned for primary leadership to be SSM Incumbents;**
- 6. To make some additional use of part-time stipendiary posts where appropriate and explore other forms of flexible ministry;**
- 7. Increase the size of Benefices where necessary to enable deployment of a sustainable BMT, and support Benefices undergoing this change;**
- 8. Invest ministerial resource in growth initiatives - in MDAs, in 'resource churches' and church plants and revitalisations in a range of traditions, and in new models of rural ministry, building on Benefice of the Future, and in parishes that are actively including fresh expressions;**
- 9. Continue identifying and promoting fresh expressions and sustainable models of pioneering;**

**E. Requests the Bishop to:**

- 1. lead prayer across the Diocese for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit in this work;**
- 2. bring forward the necessary enabling initiatives and programmes including the development and delivery of training and support for ministers and church leaders and the creation and sustaining of Benefice Ministry Teams;**
- 3. resource a targeted communications programme to support local leaders in engaging congregations and communities with these changes, and provide a mechanism to enable them to give feedback;**

**4. request the Diocesan Board of Finance to consider allocating resources from existing budgets or new applications for national Strategic Development Funding for this work;**

**5. bring forward proposals and schemes, where necessary, for discussion and formal consultation and governance at Diocesan, Archdeaconry, Deanery and local levels;**

**6. create a Deployment Development Group to support and coordinate this work as needed;**

**7. keep the Synod updated on progress and to take note of its views.**

The Chair called for a vote on the amended motion. This was passed unanimously in all three houses.