

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

23rd JUNE 2022

Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 23rd June 2022 at St Paul's Church, Bursledon. 50 members were present.

1 WELCOME AND WORSHIP

Romsey Deanery led members in opening worship.

Members were asked to hold the provisional 2023 dates included on the agenda.

Apologies were given from the Chair of the House of Laity and Chair of the DBF.

2 DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION MEASURE DS 22/05 a&b

The Education Team was introduced by the Director of Education and the Chair of the DBE.

The Director of Education introduced the paper and made it clear that this was a separate matter to the government's white paper on academisation.

He explained that all diocesan synods are required to make a Scheme in accordance with the new Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) Measure 2021 to designate an entity as the DBE for each diocese in accordance with legislation. The new DBE Measure must be operational for January 2023.

Currently the DBE is a joint unincorporated body working in partnership with the Diocese of Portsmouth. A joint working group across both diocese with representative from the DBFs and DBE had worked through the options available, assessing the technical, legal and financial aspects and unanimously agreed that, to comply with the new DBE Measure, the DBE should become a Joint Incorporated Body as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Members discussed the following:

1. The impact on the employment of the current education team.

It was confirmed that employment would not be affected as all staff would be subject to a TUPE transfer -Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment).

2. The initial additional set up costs associated with the move to incorporation.
3. That every diocese in the country has to go through this process as they cannot legally remain as they are.
4. That the proposed new DBE would be subject to annual financial auditing and a report would be provided to Diocesan Synod annually.

The Chair then moved the motion:

“This Synod notes the recommendations in paper DS 22/05 and agrees that the joint Portsmouth & Winchester Diocesan Board of Education should be incorporated in line with the proposed Mem & Arts.”

The motion was approved unanimously.

3 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Questions had been received from Sarah Yetman, Liz Stuart and Richard Wise. Written responses were issued at the meeting. Three supplementary questions were received and addressed by the Director of Operations on the day.

Sarah Yetman asked the following supplementary question:

Is it possible to form a working party group so that this can come back to the agenda on synod?

The Bishop of Southampton note that she would be very happy to do that and that her intention is to invite female clergy to come together in September and at this event see who would be interested in being on this working group. She also noted that she would like to hear from anyone that is unable to attend this event on how best to move this forward and invited them to email her directly. (bishop.debbie@winchester.anglican.org).

Liz Stuart asked the following supplementary question:

1. Many SSMs are grateful that they can train through the Winchester Training Course. In view of the fact that Oxford Diocese has just decided to close its training course can you confirm that Winchester’s is secure?

The Bishop of Southampton responded by saying that training is very important. She went on to say that we are engaged in wider conversations with Guildford

Diocese around how we offer and deliver the training but the provision of training itself is not under review

4 REFLECTION

The Bishop of Basingstoke spoke from Mark Chapter Eight. He went on to focus on how we live our lives as Christians with generosity and kindness.

5 FINANCE UPDATE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS DS 22/06

Apologies were given from The Director of Finance.

Members were shown the following video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OL1dnaOZkJU>

The Diocesan Secretary noted that the video would also be put on the website so that it could be shared with parishes. He gave his thanks to Jess Littlewood and Jordan Shepherd who had put the video together in a very short space of time.

The Bishop of Basingstoke responded to a comment regarding the title BOF (Benefice of the Future) and clarified that this would be changed to Growing the Rural Church.

Following a question regarding the lines showing staff administration and staffing costs the Diocesan Secretary confirmed that he would redo the analysis of what was included in staff costs.

2023 BUDGET DS22/07

The Diocesan Secretary noted that although Synod should have been presented with a three year plan, both the Finance Monitoring Group and Bishop's Council agreed that the Diocese was not currently in a position to produce one and that members were being asked to approve a one year budget.

He went on to note the following key points :

- To develop a financial plan for 2024-2026 an intensive process of planning and consulting will be required. A lot needs to be done in a short space of time and the views and engagement of Diocesan Synod will be vital to achieve this.
- The 2023 budget requests a total CMF income of £9,375,000, which, along with other sources of income would allow £11,188,000 to fund ministry, mission and support across the diocesan community.
- For the first time there will be a budget line of £128k for applications for CMF special consideration to recognise the current uncertainty and pressures facing parishes.
- As clergy vacancies are filled and surplus properties are sold a reduction in rental income of £132k is anticipated.

- Greatest area of expenditure continues to be clergy.
- The increase in staff salaries is driven by the expectation that most posts will be filled in 2023, the 3% cost of living increase (c £63k) plus the costs of the proposed £1,000 grant for employees (will mirror the support being offered to clergy).
- Stipendiary clergy headcount would remain 117.5 (including Archdeacon of Winchester)

Members then discussed clarification on certain areas which were addressed by The Diocesan Secretary.

The Chair proposed the motion:

“This Synod approves the Diocesan Budget for 2023, as set out in paper DS22/07 and authorises the Directors of the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance to request a total of £9.375m in Common Mission Fund from our parishes to support the costs of mission and ministry of our diocese.”

The motion was unanimously carried.

On behalf of Synod Canon Charles Stewart offered its thanks to Bishop’s Council.

The Chair thanked members for how they had engaged with the presentations.

6 UPDATE FROM BISHOP’S COUNCIL DS 22/08

The Chair introduced the update to Synod.

Members discussed various points and the Diocesan Secretary clarified that, due to the large number of pastoral reorganisation schemes that began in 2020, and the length of time each scheme and consultation requires the process is ongoing.

The Bishop of Southampton thanked everyone for their engagement and encouraged members to make contact if there was more that could be done to support them in this.

The Bishop of Southampton closed the meeting in prayer.

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod November 2020

