

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

16th MARCH 2023

Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 16th March 2023 at St Paul's Church, Bursledon. 60 members were present.

1 WELCOME AND WORSHIP

Whitchurch Deanery led members in opening worship.

The Chair noted the amendment to the Acts at the request of a member. Section on Archidiaconal provision had been amended from "It was agreed by all to endorse the proposal." to ""The majority of members spoke in favour of the proposal."

2 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Bishop of Southampton shared with Synod that she had been reading collections in Dust and Glory by Emma Inneson, with one named 'Failure'. It spoke of understanding what failure is and how God sees failure as important.

She spoke of the need to be grace filled, to forgive and the importance of trying new things, using different and relevant ways to engage with those we meet day by day, along with the ability to have a culture that isn't fearful of making mistakes.

3 RECRUITMENT OF DBE TRUSTEES DS23/01

Jeff Williams explained that following the motion carried at Diocesan Synod in November 2022 (DS22/05) the Portsmouth & Winchester Diocesan Board of Education (PWDBE) became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on the 1st of January 2023.

The PWDBE needed to elect 3 trustees from each Diocesan Synod (Portsmouth and Winchester) two clergy, one lay person and one being a member of the relevant Diocesan Synod.

Members were asked to consider if they knew of anyone who might be suitable to stand and if so to complete and return the application form by the deadline of the 31st March or contact Jeff directly to discuss.

4 RWANDA

Those who had been part of a group taking part in joint visits between Winchester School of Mission, the Education Team, Alresford Deanery and Lyndhurst Deanery to Rwanda gave a report and a short video was shown.

They expressed what a privilege it had been to represent Diocesan Synod when in Rwanda.

Jeff Williams offered to visit any of member's churches to share how we could learn from our African brothers and sisters.

5 UPDATE FROM GENERAL SYNOD DS23/02

The Chair of the House of Clergy gave an update from General Synod to members.

He reminded members of the revised 2023 parochial fees table which was applicable from 1st March 2023.

Members were asked to continue praying for Living in Love and Faith and the Bishops and encouraged to be in touch with their General Synod Representative with any questions.

6 WINCHESTER DEANERY SYNOD MOTION DS23/03

Ruth Guy (Lay Chair Winchester) and Ed Dines (Area Dean of Winchester) spoke to the motions. Members discussed the focus of the motion looking specifically at churchwardens, as the Bishop's officers, supporting their incumbents. Many members were supportive of encouraging discussion at parish level with churchwardens taking specific responsibility.

The Chair moved the motions in turn –

1. Winchester Deanery Synod calls on the Diocesan Synod to call, in turn, on General Synod to consider amending the regulation for weekly rest periods for office holders in the [Ecclesiastical Offices \(Terms of Service\) Regulations 2009](#) regulation 21 (1) to be amended to say: "An office holder shall be entitled to **not less than 36 hours (a day and a half) of**

rest in any period of seven days and to include an uninterrupted rest period of not less than 24 hours in any period of seven days, but the statement of particulars of office issued under regulation 3 above may specify that any rest period may not be taken on or include a Sunday or any or all of the principal Feasts of the Church of England or Ash Wednesday or Good Friday.”

The motion was carried by majority with 4 against and 7 abstentions

Post meeting note:

The Clerk to General Synod requested a factual amendment to the motion as the Archbishop’s Council are responsible for making and amending these regulations.

“That this Synod request that the Archbishops’ Council lay before it for approval draft Regulations amending the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009 so that an office holder is entitled to not less than 36 hours (a day and a half) of rest in any period of seven days, to include an uninterrupted rest period of not less than 24 hours, but so that the statement of particulars of office may continue to specify that any rest period may not be taken on or include a Sunday or any or all of the principal Feasts of the Church of England or Ash Wednesday or Good Friday.”

2. The Deanery Synod calls on the Winchester Diocesan Synod to make a motion to encourage the same expectation as above and to ask that all PCCs consider how they can support office holders to be able to achieve this regardless of legislative changes and to be done as soon as practically possible.

The motion was carried by majority with 2 against and 4 abstentions.

3. The Deanery Synod calls on the Winchester Diocesan Synod to invite the Bishop to make a suitable statement to PCCs and clergy in support of the above proposals regardless of legislative changes and to be done as soon as practically possible.

The motion was carried with 1 against and 2 abstentions.

7 BUDGET CONSULTATION UPDATE

The Diocesan Secretary gave an update to Synod on the process, explaining that only 46 responses have been received, which did not provide enough representation across the diocese. He asked members to go back to their parishes to encourage them to take part.

He informed Synod that the Finance Monitoring Group (FMG) would be reverting to being called the Finance Committee and went on to express his thanks to the Chair of the FMG.

Synod were asked to continue to pray for the Finance Monitoring Group and Bishop's Council.

8 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

No questions had been received.

9 UPDATE FROM BISHOP'S COUNCIL DS 23/04

The Chair of the House of Laity informed Synod that Nigel May had been co-opted to Bishop's council for the duration of the triennium.

The Bishop of Southampton informed Synod that Ian Dighe had been elected as interim chair of the WDBF for 2 years and would take up the role on the 1st May 2023.

She went on to table a vote of thanks for Alastair for his nearly 2 years of service as interim Chair of the WDBF, praising how he stepped in at such a crucial moment and with such a calm presence.

10 MEETINGS OF THE HOUSES

Synod split into the two houses to discuss the purpose and value of the co-options.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Members were reminded of the meeting dates for 2023

22nd June 2023

11th September 2023 – additional meeting via Zoom

16th November 2023

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod November 2022