

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

22nd November 2023

Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 22nd November 2023 at St Paul's, Bursledon

63 members were present.

1 WELCOME AND ARRIVAL

The Chairs of the House of Clergy and House of Laity welcomed members.

Southampton Deanery led Synod in a short act of worship.

The Diocesan Secretary promulgated the amendment to canon 42.

"I give notice that, at its July 2023 group of sessions, the General Synod resolved that Amending Canon No. 42 be made, promulgated and executed."

"Amending Canon No. 42 amends Canon C 30 by replacing the requirement for the bishop of each diocese to appoint a Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) with a requirement for the bishop to appoint a Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) with responsibility in the diocese, independent of the bishop, for professional leadership on and management of safeguarding matters. The Canon also provides for the professional supervision of DSOs and for the quality assurance of their work by the National Safeguarding Team. The changes will come into force diocese by diocese upon certification by the Archbishops' Council."

2 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Bishop of Winchester gave his first presidential address to Synod and began by noting how grateful he and his wife Ruth were for the warmth of welcome they had received, going on to explain that in the lead up to his service of welcome he had enjoyed taking the opportunity to visit churches to get a feel

for the life of the Diocese and that there had been so much that he had been encouraged by.

Following this he spoke of how it had become obvious to him that Colin Harbidge should be formally appointed as permanent Diocesan Secretary and how delighted he was that Bishop's Council agreed.

He went on to confirm that a Bishop's Chaplain had recently been appointed and shared his hope that Bishop Geoff's offer to become Acting Bishop of Southampton be approved later in the meeting – also thanking Bishop Geoff for his willingness to stand.

Synod were then asked to focus their minds, using the words of Luke 4:16-21 as a springboard to recommit to the mission and ministry God was calling them to.

3. ADDITIONAL ITEM ACTING BISHOP OF SOUTHAMPTON

The Chair of the House of Clergy hi-lighted this item as a late inclusion on the agenda.

The Diocesan Secretary explained that before a Bishop can be replaced there is an official process that needs to be carried out, which would take place once Bishop Philip had had the opportunity to get to know the Diocese. In the meantime the purpose of the motion was to ask a retired Bishop to carry out a role for some initial support.

The Chair of the House of Clergy moved the motion

“This Synod approves the appointment of The Rt Revd Geoff Annas as Acting Bishop of Southampton, and requests the Bishop of Winchester to prepare an Instrument of Delegation under Section 13 of the Diocese Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007”

The motion was carried with one abstention and one against.

4 NET ZERO ROUTE MAP DS23/14

The Diocesan Secretary gave his thanks to the DEG (Diocesan Environmental Group) for putting the document together in such a tight timescale and explained that the document was needed to be approved by the end of the year.

Victor Humphrey from the DEG gave an overview of the route map.

Comments were taken from the floor including the importance of young people being involved, advice on reducing travel at a parish level and looking at the possibility of growing food on some of the land owned by the diocese.

The Diocesan Secretary noted that the ability to grow food on some of the land owned by the diocese was limited but that it was something that needed to be looked at.

The Chair of the House of Clergy moved the motion:

“This Synod adopts the net zero route map, as outlined in paper DS 23/14”

The motion was carried with one against and five abstentions.

5. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

No questions had been received.

6 BURUNDI

Mark Collinson and Chris Bradish presented a report from their recent visit to Burundi.

Members were shown a video message from Burundi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89m7zU7jIDc>

7 REVIEW OF MEM AND ARTS DS23/15

The Chair of the House of Laity reminded members that this item was originally present to Diocesan Synod in November 2022.

The Diocesan Secretary presented the item to members, explaining the three motions and what the proposed changes would and would not mean.

The Chair of the House of Laity moved each motion in turn.

Motion 1:

“This Synod supports the Directors of the WDBF in their intention to amend the Mem & Arts of the WDBF to:

- i. Remove the automatic requirement for the Bishop of Winchester to be the Chair of the WDBF*

- ii. *Allow for a wider membership of the WDBF, having all the members of Winchester Diocesan Synod as company law members of the Charity (provided they consent to do so)."*

The motion was carried with one against and no abstentions.

Motion 2:

"This Synod recognises that these changes to be subject to:

- i. *Consultation and approval from Diocesan Synod to accept this additional responsibility.*
- ii. *Consultation and confirmation from the Charity Commission of the proposed changes to the Mem & Arts*
- iii. *The Directors of the WDBF reviewing and approving the final revised wording once the Charity Commission and solicitors have finalised the amendment."*

The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion 3:

"This Synod approves a change to the Standing Orders of the Winchester Diocesan Synod to increase the elected membership of the House of Laity by 4, to ensure there is a small majority of lay members on the Synod. This change to come into effect at the next Diocesan Synod elections in 2024."

The motion was carried with one against and no abstentions.

8 UPDATE FROM BISHOP'S COUNCIL DS 23/16

No questions were received.

9 UPDATE FROM GENERAL SYNOD

Simon Clift, Lay Synod Representative gave an update from General Synod to members.

10 FAREWELL TO BISHOP DEBBIE WITH CLOSING PRAYER

The Chair of the House of Clergy thanked Bishop Debbie for helping to bring the Diocese to a place where it could welcome a new Bishop, with cheerfulness in adversity, good grace in the face of difficult things and a sincere and loving generosity.

The Bishop of Southampton ended by giving thanks for allowing her to be herself and asked members to keep looking to what God is doing, to think about who they are, what they wanted to be and how they wanted to be together.

The meeting closed in prayer.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

21st March 2024 : St Paul's, Bursledon

19th June 2024

14th November 2024

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod November 2023