

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

19th June 2024

Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 19th June 2024 in the marquee at
Wolvesey

52 members were present.

1 WELCOME AND ARRIVAL

The Chair of the House of Clergy welcomed members and noted that this was the last meeting of the triennium.

Members were also reminded that the deadline for nominations to serve on Diocesan Synod in the next triennium was Friday 21st June 2024.

The Chair promulgated the amendment of canon 43:

“I give notice that, at its February 2024 group of sessions, the General Synod resolved that Amending Canon No. 43 be made, promulgated and executed.

“Amending Canon No. 43 makes miscellaneous amendments to the Canons of the Church of England. It complements the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2024.”

2 OPENING WORSHIP

Alton Deanery led members in opening worship.

3 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Bishop Philip gave his presential address on the theme of community, how much it mattered both in the church and in the world and that Synod had a duty to maintain and promote it.

He went on to pay homage to Mark Collinson for his tireless service and leadership of the School of Mission.

Synod was asked to pray for the interviews for the new Bishop of Southampton, due to be held on the 1st July 2024.

Bishop Philip gave thanks to Synod for their service during the last triennium.

Members gave thanks to Bishop Philip for his encouragement.

4 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Five questions had been received from two members. Written responses had been emailed to members.

Michael Minton asked the following supplementary question (relating his question regarding information on the budget for 2025 being brought to Synod):

Would Synod be releasing a statement to encourage parishes with giving?

The Diocesan Secretary responded by saying that after November there would be an opportunity for Synod to make a statement.

5 2023 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS DS24/03

The Chair of the House of Laity reminded Synod that the accounts had been approved by the Directors of the WDBF on the 6th June 2024. Synod was required to ‘consider’ them.

The Chair of the WDBF gave thanks to The Diocesan Secretary and his team and noted how important the consultation process was.

An observation was made that the report did not show a story of spending on children and young people. The Diocesan Secretary responded by saying that hopefully things would look different in the following year.

A question was taken from the floor asking how accessibility was promoted and if there were any funds to assist churches in approving accessibility. The Diocesan Secretary explained that a small group had been put together to begin a review process and a consultant had been identified to work on this. He went on to confirm that there was a small amount of money in the Social Responsibility Fund for this.

6 2024 COMMON MISSION FUND DS24/04

Common Mission Fund Review Group

The Chair of the Common Mission Fund Review Group presented recommended amendments to the common mission fund.

The Chair of the House of Laity moved the motion:

“This Synod approves the recommendations as outlined in paper DS24/04.”

The motion was carried with one abstention.

Common Mission Fund 2025

The Diocesan Secretary reminded members that the 2024-26 budget had been approved by Synod in September 2023 and that in line with the budget aspirations the total CMF requested had not been increased by more than the total increase of stipends.

The Chair of the House of Laity proposed the motion:

“This Synod authorises the Directors of the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance to request a total of £8.862m in Common Mission Fund contributions for 2025 inclusive from our parishes to support the costs of mission and ministry of our diocese.”

The motion was carried unanimously.

7 UPDATE FROM BISHOP’S COUNCIL DS24/05

The Diocesan Secretary took a question from the floor regarding the location of Mary Sumner’s bible (previously in Old Alresford Place), confirming that it had been loaned to St Mary’s, Old Alresford, who had created a dedicated space within the church to display and celebrate the connection with the Mother’s Union.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

20th March 2025

25th June 2025

20th November 2025

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod March 2024