

# DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at St Paul's,  
Bursledon

74 members were present.

## **1 WELCOME AND ARRIVAL**

## **2 HUSTINGS AND ELECTIONS FOR CHAIRS OF HOUSE OF CLERGY AND HOUSE OF LAITY**

Synod split into the two separate houses to carry out hustings for the elected house of laity roles on Bishop's Council and hustings and elections for the Chair of the House of Clergy.

## **3 OPENING WORSHIP**

The Diocesan Environment Officer led members in opening worship.

## **4 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Bishop Philip gave his presential address to Synod.

Full text of his speech can be found [here](#)

## **5 ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF THE CHAIR OF ELECTIONS**

**The Diocesan Secretary announced the results to Synod.**

### **Chair of the House of Laity**

Mr Alastair Barron was the only candidate to stand and so was duly elected as Chair.

### **Chair of the House of Clergy**

The Diocesan Secretary gave grateful thanks to Andrew Micklefield and Angie Smith for offering to serve in this way. 33 votes were cast with 21 in favour of Angie Smith who was elected as the new Chair.

The Diocesan Secretary offered Synod's thanks to Andrew Micklefield and confirmed that Andrew would be standing on Bishop's Council along with Sarah Yetman who had both stood and been duly elected.

The results of the House of Laity elections for Bishop's Council would follow after the deadline of the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## **6 DIOCESAN RACIAL JUSTICE STRATEGY DS24/06**

The Chair of the House of Laity reminded members that they had previously received a detailed briefing at the meetings of the Houses.

Members were then shown a five-minute video introduction.

Yin Yin Bull and Chihera from the Racial Justice spoke to members, their testimonies can be found [here](#)

The Chair then put the motion and opened debate.

Questions were taken from the floor asking how regularly updates would be brought to Synod and what methods would be used to measure success.

The Diocesan Secretary responded by confirming that he would put this to Business Committee.

Bishop David confirmed that regular updates would be given against national indices and that if Synod passed the motion the Racial Justice Group's next step would be to write the implementation plan for the strategy.

Bishop David moved the motion:

*“This Synod adopts the racial justice strategy as outlined in paper DS24/06”*

The motion was carried with 2 abstentions and one against.

## **7 UPDATE ON CARBON NET ZERO ROUTEMAP DS24/07**

Due to time constraints, it was agreed this item would be moved to a future meeting of Diocesan Synod.

## **8 FINANCIAL RESPONSE TO BUDGET CHALLENGES DS24/08**

The Chair of the House of Clergy gave thanks to her fellow clergy and outgoing Chair, Andrew Micklefield and reminded members that the papers had been to Finance Committee and Bishop's Council.

The Diocesan Secretary noted to Synod that the paper not only highlighted the immediate financial challenge faced due to low CMF contributions but also assessed this in the wider financial context.

He concluded by noting that after careful consideration both The Diocesan Finance Committee and Bishop's Council did not believe that making further cuts to the budget at this moment in time was the right decision.

Synod was advised that their task was to consider how to respond to the challenge.

A question was taken from the floor regarding the strategy for clergy recruitment.

The Diocesan Secretary responded by confirming that this was a huge priority, and that clergy recruitment was a large problem nationally.

The Chair moved the motion:

**This Synod:**

- a. Takes note of the challenging financial context as set out in the report from the Bishop's Council & Standing Committee DS24/07*
- b. Requests the Bishop's Council & Standing Committee to communicate this information widely across our Deanery Synods and PCCs to help raise awareness of our shared challenges, calling on all to consider how they might respond.*
- c. Instructs the Bishop's Council to provide a further update by November 2025.*

The motion was carried unanimously.

## **9 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS**

Six questions had been received from three members. Written responses had been emailed to members.

Michael Minton asked the following supplementary question:

*Would there be an additional meeting in advance of the Diocesan Synod in June next year with detail of the accounts?*

The Diocesan Secretary responded to confirm that there wouldn't be an additional meeting but that there would be a full presentation of the accounts at the AGM/Diocesan Synod in June.

Sarah Yetman asked the following supplementary question:

*What can we do to ensure that our policies on maternity and otherwise are known and owned by those needing them?*

The Diocesan Secretary responded by saying that work needs to be done around helping people know what policies there are. He followed on by noting that the staff maternity policy would be taken to Bishop's Council for review.

**10 UPDATE FROM BISHOP'S COUNCIL DS24/09**

No questions were received.

**11 CLOSING PRAYER**

Bishop Rhiannon closed the meeting in prayer.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

20<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**DEEMED BUSINESS**

*Approved nem con.*

- Acts of Synod June 2024