



**SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT**  
**AMESBURY BAPTIST CENTRE ON SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2013**

**1. Opening Worship and Presidential Address**

Members took part in the Liturgy of the Word and the Bishop delivered the Presidential Address.

A full copy of the presidential address is available from the web-site at [www.salisbury.anglican.org](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org) or from [fiona.torrance@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:fiona.torrance@salisbury.anglican.org) at the Diocesan Office.

**2. Notices, Co-options and Apologies**

The House of Clergy co-opted the Revd Canon Ann Philp who had recently taken over as Clergy Retirement Officer for Ramsbury, replacing the Revd Michael Turner. The House of Clergy also co-opted the Revd Canon Harold Stephens who had recently been appointed Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Synod noted that in future the minutes of the Diocesan Synod would be approved and signed at the following meeting.

Apologies were received from 16 clergy and 12 laity.

**3. The Social Context of Mission**

The Bishop of Sherborne introduced the item followed by the Bishop of Ramsbury who spoke about the social context of mission. Synod watched a video on the "Hope 2014" initiative which sees the Church as key to producing real community transformation. The Hope web site is at <http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/32586/HOPE.aspx>. The Bishop of Ramsbury suggested a variety of points and ideas for consideration including:

- We do not live in an increasingly secular society.
- Where we aim our mission and ministry is affected by whether we consider salvation to occur in the Church, the Kingdom or the world.
- The Occasional Offices are fundamental to the mission of the Church.
- We need to concentrate on what we are good at, which includes buildings and high quality worship.
- Those who want to become Christians, we welcome; those who don't, we love and serve.

He felt that benefices need to work collaboratively whilst emphasising the local Church. He wanted to see an active programme of serving the community in every benefice. He commented that we need to hear the stories people tell and he commended the power of example which encouraged people to want to join in.

**4. Mission in Action**

Models of Ministry for Mission

The Ven Alan Jeans and the Revd Penny Joyce updated Synod on the initial findings of the Ministry for Mission project. Many projects and Fresh Expressions had been mapped and a display had been set up in the meeting room for members to explore. There were many reasons why people did not go to church so there was felt to be value in offering a mixed economy which provided choices.

- Help would be offered for churches to audit and define their place in their community.

- Partnerships were developing with schools, youth initiatives, local councils, ecumenical groups and others.
- Courses were being prepared for the CMD brochure which would be open to clergy and laity.
- There were plans to build up hubs to deliver training locally.
- There was awareness of the major contribution of lay people and also of the needs of rural communities.

The Ven Alan Jeans commended for reflection the questions on his paper “New Models of Ministry for Mission – Interim Report November 2013”.

Synod heard presentations on two mission projects funded by the Aldhelm Mission Fund. The first, in Dorchester, was providing two choral scholarships to enable talented young choristers from the comprehensive/community school to sing with the St Peter’s chapel choir. The second was a significant contribution to the start up and first three years’ running costs of the Wimborne Deanery Youth Bus project.

### New Wine

The Revd Canon Andy Perry spoke about the New Wine network, its work and effect. It is now a major movement providing leadership for Church growth and for mission.

### Plenary Discussion

In discussion, the following points were made:

- Where new church expressions move beyond the boundaries of the existing church, the parent church tends to retain some oversight and accountability.
- The trouble with the “journey” metaphor is that most people live their lives episodically. Recognising rites of passage is one way of joining up the episodes.
- The laity have an important role to play and their views continue to be sought.
- The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity web site has a practical 6 week course on how laity can make a difference:  
<http://www.licc.org.uk/resources/2012/04/08/life-on-the-frontline/>.
- We should encourage the concept of listening rather than telling.
- Sharing good stories and practice is a key concept.
- Also, we should not expect the clergy to do everything.

Suggestions as to what limits Church growth included:

- Being inward-looking
- Lack of courage
- Meetings for meetings’ sake
- Lack of trust in God
- Failure to see God outside church
- Discouragement

## **5. Cathedral Annual Report**

The Dean presented the Annual Report which covered the period April 2012 to April 2013. She explained that this was not just a report on the previous strategy plan, but was also an accountability process. Key points included:

- None of the Cathedral’s expenditure comes from parish Share.
- They are nearing the end of the major repair programme which is due to be completed in 2018. It has taken 30 years and £30 million.
- The Cathedral has made a profit for the third year running which means that development can take place.
- They are now running apprenticeships for stonemasons and glaziers.
- Worship and outreach are at the heart of the Cathedral’s purpose.
- A new strategy plan has been developed for 2013 – 2017, spanning the Magna Carta celebrations in 2015.

Copies of the full Report, by email or post, are available from the Dean.

**6. The Commemoration of the Centenary of World War One**

The Dean, a member of the government’s First World War Centenary Commemoration Advisory Group, presented proposals for how churches might mark this event. The Government has asked that every secondary school send someone to the Western Front battlefields. Money will be made available to, amongst other things, renovate war memorials. The national commemoration will have three main elements:

- Memorial services
- Open churches and vigil on 4 August
- A national service at Glasgow Cathedral

There will also be local events and this will depend on what is significant in any area. Synod members were asked to consider how their churches might get involved.

**7. Safeguarding update**

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser highlighted the key provisions and recent changes to the Diocesan Safeguarding and Safe Working Guidelines and the resulting priorities for action. She reported that the safeguarding area of the diocesan web site is being improved and updated. In respect of parish policy, she advised that the best approach was for parishes to use the diocesan/House of Bishops template which she will email on request. In response to a question she explained that she would not be providing on-line training because she would shortly be retiring, but that she understood that this was being investigated. Synod noted that in future safeguarding training would be a requirement for clergy, rather than an option.

The Archdeacon of Sherborne then moved on behalf of Bishop’s Council that:

“This Synod formally accepts the House of Bishops’ safeguarding policies and notes their inclusion in the Diocesan Safeguarding & Good Practice Guidelines (Revised 2013)”

The motion was carried unanimously.

**8. The Churches Mutual Credit Union (CMCU)**

The Revd Canon Antony MacRow-Wood reported on progress of the Churches Mutual Credit Union and on the suggested response from churches to the Archbishop’s Initiative on Credit Unions. There were various ways in which churches might help their local Credit Unions, for example by providing capital injection, savers and borrowers, hosting and helping to run service points, providing publicity and assisting with governance. Initially the CMCU will be open to clergy, employees and trustees of Anglican and Scottish churches and charities, and it was hoped that eventually it would be open to all active church members. The intention was to build a sustainable business within three years. There were well-qualified people giving advice and help and they were working in partnership with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. Launches were planned for May (Scottish General Assembly) and July (General Synod) 2014 with trading starting by 1 October 2014. It was noted that loans could only help people who had enough income in the first place but that, as with other Credit Unions, the CMCU could help people to iron out the peaks and troughs of income. It was all to do with responsible lending.

**9. Deanery Synod Elections 2014**

The Bishop moved on behalf of Bishop’s Council, and Synod approved nem con that:

“This Synod agrees that the formula for parochial representation contained in the Constitution of Deanery Synods should remain unchanged for the triennium 2014 - 2017 as follows:

Numbers on Electoral Roll	Numbers of representatives on Deanery Synods
1- 25	1
26- 100	2
101- 200	3
201- 300	4
301- 400	5

401- 500	6
501- 750	7
751- 1000	8
Over 1000	9

And that the numbers to be elected by individual parishes should be as published on the web site and displayed at the Synod.”

Synod noted that there would be a half day session entitled “So You’re Thinking of Standing for Synod?” taking place at the Diocesan Office on 1 February 2014. It would be led by Mr Robert Key, Mrs Christine Corteen and the Revd Canon Jane Charman and all were encouraged to attend.

**10. Women in the Episcopate**

The Revd Canon Jane Charman, member of the Women Bishops’ Steering Committee of the General Synod, outlined the proposals that would be going to General Synod. The elements of the proposed legislation operated in tension with one another to seek to achieve a situation where those of all convictions could work with each other. The proposals were likely to be referred back to diocesan synods in early 2014 before returning to General Synod for final approval in November 2014. If approved, there would no longer be any dioceses where no one was prepared to ordain women. Also, it was noted that there would be no need to re-visit the legislation should a female archbishop be proposed.

Mr John Walmsley commented that team ministries have no public powers or part in the synodical process and that this was an issue which should be addressed.

**11. Questions**

Mr Philip Sankey (Lyme Bay Deanery) asked, “Since the presentation to Diocesan Synod in June 2012, how many additional Lay Worship Leaders have been trained and commissioned?” The Revd Canon Jane Charman responded, “None,” because of the introduction of the system of new Common Awards which had required all the resources of the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Team, but the Team would soon be re-focussing attention on LWLs.

In respect of the Aldhelm course, Mr Sankey then asked, “How many courses ran during 2012-2013? Approximately how many people participated and how many have completed the written work and received a certificate?” Canon Charman responded that there had been 175 participants in 16 centres and that 77 had completed the written assignments and received certificates.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

Synod will next meet from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturday 18 February at St Nicholas Church Centre, Corfe Mullen. Any Motions, proposals for business or other matters should be with the Diocesan Secretary by 13 January.