



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD  
MINUTES OF THE 86<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT  
AMESBURY BAPTIST CHURCH CENTRE ON SATURDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2005**

- 1. Liturgy of the Word with Presidential Address**  
Members took part in the Liturgy of the Word and the Bishop of Sherborne delivered the Presidential Address.
- 2. Notices, Co-options and Apologies**  
The Diocesan Secretary welcomed the Revd Humphrey Southern as the newly elected Chairman of the House of Clergy and advised Synod of the death of former House of Laity member Col John Crompton. Apologies were received from the Bishop.
- 3. Shaping the Cathedral for Future Mission**  
The Dean, the Very Revd June Osborne, gave a report on the vision of the long-term strategy for the Cathedral. This involved:

  - reflecting on the Cathedral Mission Statement
  - addressing the themes of prayerfulness, hospitality and citizenship
  - producing a conservation plan
  - A Master Plan to be completed within the next 18 months.

Members of Cathedral staff were very willing to come and speak to deaneries about this or any other matters of common concern.
- 4. The Diocesan Latvian Link**  
Canon David Durston, Chairman of the Latvia working party, gave a report on the visit of members from the Latvian Lutheran Church to the diocese that took place in January 2005. He welcomed Juris Balodis and Laila Ozolina from St Saviours in Riga who spoke of the valuable voluntary ministry of the Church to the elderly and disadvantaged of Riga.
- 5. The Aldhelm Way**  
As an additional agenda item the Bishop of Sherborne gave an update on plans for the celebration of the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Aldhelm this year.
- 6. Promoting Mental Health**  
Fay Wilson Rudd, Chair of the Mental Health Working Party in the Diocese of Bath and Wells presented details of a resource pack for spiritual and pastoral care. Copies of this pack are available to look through at the Diocesan Office.
- 7. Shaping the Boards for Future Mission**  
The Bishop of Ramsbury presented the Report on Diocesan Structures and the recommendations for new ways of working to enable the diocese to discern the signs of God at work and to develop strategies for the Church of the future. Synod members commented as follows:

  - New structures are needed to reflect the needs of the Church today.
  - Is Synod too large a body to be an effective DBF?
  - Will a combined Bishop's Council and DBF Executive be an effective body?
  - The combined Bishop's Council and DBF Executive will be a wider base for decision-making and Synod will be empowered.

- Guildford and many other dioceses have combined Bishop's Council and DBF and the move has proved very effective.
- The best run companies and charities combine strategic thinking with financial planning, as is proposed.
- Where will the financial control lie?
- If the recommendations are supported then mission in the diocese will be governed by finance.
- Mrs Elizabeth Young wished to record her thanks for what the Board of Parish Development had achieved.
- Area teams will address areas of work concerning Parish Development and Church & Society.
- More time is needed to consider the report and its proposals.
- The proposals form an important skeleton, but they are only the first step forward.

The Bishop of Ramsbury confirmed that, should the Motion be passed, more detailed proposals would be available from the Diocesan Office as the detail of the recommendations was developed. This would inform ongoing discussion and debate and would also be brought to Synod in June.

The Bishop of Ramsbury then moved, on behalf of the Bishop's Council:

That this Synod:

1. takes note of the Bishop's Council Report on the Diocesan Structures Review dated January 2005.
2. agrees to the following recommendations in the report:
  - A. para 6.1.1 that Bishop's Council incorporates the legal responsibilities currently exercised by the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Pastoral Committee.
  - B. para 6.1.2 that Diocesan Synod becomes the Board of Finance.
  - C. para 6.1.4 that the implementation of the changes to Synod, Bishop's Council, Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Pastoral Committee will be at the next Triennium (Autumn 2006).
  - D. para 6.1.5 that the Boards of Ministry, Church and Society and Parish Development are abolished with effect from the end of 2005 or sooner if appropriate.
  - E. Para 6.1.6 that the model of area team working be further developed
  - F. para 6.1.7 that the post Director of Church and Society comes to an end and asks the Diocesan Secretary to enter into the necessary discussions with the post holder.
  - G. Para 6.1.8 that the post of Adviser in Parish Development come to an end
  - H. Para 6.1.9 that Bishop's Council set up scrutiny panels to review the work of area teams and central services
3. requests a further progress report from the Diocesan Secretary at the meeting of this Synod in November 2005.

Motion 1 was carried with 80 votes in favour and 1 against. Motion 2 was carried with 67 votes in favour and 15 against. Motion three was carried nem con.

**8. Questions**

Mr Tim Price (Salisbury) asked “In view of the increasingly widespread use of personal IT equipment, would it be possible for members, who choose to do so, to receive their Synod papers via email? E-distribution of paperwork would reduce the diocese’s expenditure on postage and would considerably ease the task of those members who choose to file their papers electronically.”

The Diocesan Secretary responded that she supported this suggestion and hoped it could be achieved. She asked that Synod members who had not already done so would provide their email address for diocesan records.

**9. The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

The meeting concluded with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

17 June, 6 pm, at St Paul’s Church, Fisherton Anger, Salisbury

**11. Attendance:**

House of Clergy	49%
House of Laity	66%
House of Bishops	66%

An informal report of Diocesan Synod prepared by Miriam Darke, Assistant Diocesan Secretary, may shortly be found on the diocesan web site at <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org>