



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIocese of SALISBURY

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD
MINUTES OF THE 87th SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, FISHERTON ANGER ON FRIDAY 17 JUNE 2005**

1. **Prayers**
Prayers were led by the Bishop.
2. **Notices, Co-options and Apologies**
The Diocesan Secretary promulgated Amending Canon No 26. This amends Canons H2 and H3 which make provision for the representation of bishops and clergy in the Upper and Lower Houses of the Convocations of Canterbury and York. Apologies were received from 16 clergy and 19 laity.
- 3 **Summary Annual Report and Accounts**
Synod noted the Summary Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2004.
4. **The Re-Structure of the Diocesan Organisation**
 - 4.2 The Bishop of Ramsbury provided an update on the actions taken to bring the non-statutory boards to an end. The Revd Tim Woods, the Archdeacon of Sarum and the Bishop of Sherborne were thanked for their contribution in moving this work forward. New ways of doing the work of the discontinued boards are already in place. Area Resource Teams are developing in the Ramsbury and Sherborne Episcopal Areas. The Stewardship and Vocations groups are already functioning. Skilled volunteers will increasingly work as part of these Teams. The budgeting will be overseen by the new Diocesan Management Group which has just had its second meeting. Information will be produced showing the make-up of the Area Resource Teams. There will be on-going scrutiny to keep the balance of skills under review and information will regularly be brought before Synod.
 - 4.2 The Bishop presented the case for the need to make provision for a new post designed to extend the training and development offered to lay members of the diocese. There is currently provision for a half time post in budget. A properly costed proposal for a full time post will come before Synod in November together with suggestions for how the un-budgeted half of the post might be funded.
5. **The Aldhelm Way**
The Bishop of Sherborne reported on the week of pilgrimage. This had been a hugely successful event. He thanked all who had helped in any way. Synod expressed its particular thanks to Mr Geoff Taylor.
6. **Diocesan Budget for Share Assessment 2006**
Provision for Aspiration 3 had been removed from the budget, because of the slow progress of the Aspiration nationally, bringing a proposed Share increase of 2.7%. However, the budget figures for 2006 had now been received from the Archbishops' Council and were £72,000 lower than expected. The Chairman of the Board of Finance therefore proposed an adjusted Share increase of 1.8%. Synod approved the adjusted Diocesan Budget for Share Assessment 2006 with 1 vote against.
7. **Proposal for a Deanery Credit**
Synod did not support a proposal to credit the £459,000 of the current 2005 budget representing Aspiration 3 back to the deaneries. Members generally felt that the

money should be used to increase clergy stipends, being the purpose for which it was raised. If this could not be achieved immediately then the money should be retained for when the Aspiration could be met either wholly or in part. The Board of Finance, at its meeting on 24 June, will consider the wishes of Synod.

8. The General Synod Elections

The Archdeacon of Sarum spoke about being a member of General Synod and encouraged members of Diocesan Synod to put themselves forward in the forthcoming elections and to use their votes. The Diocesan Secretary introduced the timetable for the General Synod Elections:

19 July	Issue of nomination papers
When nominations received	Notification of the validity of any nomination
26 August	Closing date for nominations
9 September	Issue of voting papers
30 September	Closing date for return of voting papers
3 October	Day of the Count
7 October	Results to all necessary parties

9. Questions

9.1 Mrs Deirdre Ducker and Mr Christopher Fielden (Bradford Deanery) asked: "Would you please provide the Synod with the current and proposed make-up of the Bishop's Council. Please indicate specifically whether each member is, and will be, and indicate what, if any, legal requirements there are for specific membership:

- a) A statutory member
- b) An ex-officio member
- c) An elected member
- d) An appointed member
- e) A member nominated by the Bishop
- f) An other member"

The Diocesan Secretary responded by tabling the current membership of the Bishop's Council, Board of Finance and Pastoral Committee which bodies will be combined in the proposed new Bishop's Council, together with the legal requirements for composition of these bodies. Membership of the new Bishop's Council has not been finalised, but sufficient lay representation and financial competence will be priorities.

As a supplementary question, Mrs Ducker asked how many laity served on the current Bishop's Council. The Chairman of the House of Laity responded seven.

9.2 Mrs Deirdre Ducker and Mr Christopher Fielden also asked: "Would you please tell us when Synod is going to debate the future make-up of the Bishop's Council and ascertain that we will receive briefing papers in time to debate the changes and the proposed make-up of Bishop's Council in our deanery synods."

The Diocesan Secretary replied that Synod would have a substantial debate at its meeting on 5 November. In order to allow sufficient time for deaneries to reflect on these matters, a briefing paper will be issued in September.

10. Date of Next Meeting

10 am on Saturday 5 November 2005 at St Nicholas' Church, Corfe Mullen.

11. Attendance:

House of Clergy	49%
House of Laity	49%
House of Bishops	100%

An informal report of Diocesan Synod prepared by the Revd Nicholas Papadopoulos, Bishop's Senior Chaplain and Press Officer, may shortly be found on the diocesan web site at <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org>