

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD  
MINUTES OF THE 88<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT  
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, CORFE MULLEN ON FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2005**

1. **Liturgy of the Word with Presidential Address**

Members took part in the Liturgy of the Word and the Bishop delivered the Presidential Address.
2. **Notices, Co-options and Apologies**

A new Bishop of Evreux will take up his post at the end of January. Archbishop Marona is in the UK and is praying for us as we pray for him. Synod welcomed the newly elected General Synod representatives. Apologies were received from 15 clergy and 12 laity.
3. **A Diocesan Strategy for Mission**
  - 3.1 The Archdeacon of Sarum presented the report of the Bishop's Council Mission Strategy Task Group. Synod approved the Motion:  
"That this Synod:
    - a) Takes note of the report of the Bishop's Council Mission Strategy Task Group;
    - b) Requests the Bishop's Council to establish a follow-up Task Group to put in place an Action Plan and timetable to implement and review the Mission Strategy;
    - c) Requests Deanery Synods to continue exploring new opportunities for mission and ministry and developing their Deanery Strategic Plans for Mission in Ministry within the principles of the Mission Strategy."
  - 3.2 The Bishop of Ramsbury presented the case for a Lay Learning post. Synod approved the Motion:  
"That this Synod approves the creation of a new post".
4. **How to get the Best out of Synod**

Synod formed into buzz groups to consider four issues:

  - 1) Synod members as ambassadors
  - 2) The role of Synod in fulfilling the Diocesan purpose
  - 3) Future topics for Synod to debate
  - 4) How to achieve greater attendance and participation

Synod reported back as follows:

  - 1) Members have a responsibility to:
    - Attend meetings
    - Contribute
    - Encouraging parishes to share their successes and propose discussions on key issues
    - Act as a 2 way link between Diocesan and Deanery Synods and the parishes
    - Help create effective communications
    - Create a credible image for Synod
    - Get together in advance to discuss items
    - Be available to the wider diocese
    - Be accountable
    - Develop awareness of a wide range of views
    - Encourage others to stand for Synod

- 2) Members should contribute to the Diocesan purpose by leading and enabling and by taking ownership of the decisions made.
- 3) Matters that Synod would like to debate included:
  - Women bishops
  - Lesbian and gay clergy
  - New expressions of Church
  - What it means to be the established Church and should we remain established
  - Responsibility to the environment
  - Ethical issues
  - Social issues
  - Diocesan Links
  - Patronage
  - How best to use our Lay Pastoral Assistants
  - Report on Bishop's Council
  - Euthanasia
  - The war in Iraq
  - General synod topics in addition to those specifically sent down for discussion
  - Abolition of the current Share arrangements and the introduction of a voluntary system
  - Ecumenism
  - Should senior posts be filled
  - The timing of Synods
  - Indiscriminate infant baptism – a hindrance?
- 4) Those with a poor attendance record should be asked why they don't attend. Members would like more opportunities to question and involve themselves with the role of the diocese including the diocesan staff. The timing of Synods should be reviewed.

**5. Partnership and Mission for our 14 – 19 Year Olds**

The Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Education, the Archdeacon of Dorset, presented the issues and Synod approved the Motion:

"That this Synod

- a) Recognises the importance of developing a Mission for and a Partnership with Youth which has the support and endorsement of the Diocese at every level.
- b) Approves the holding of a Diocesan Conference, possibly in the autumn of 2006, as the means of redefining the Mission.
- c) Charges the Diocesan Board of Education with the responsibility for its preparation, organisation and management on behalf of the Synod"

**6. The Re-Structure of the Diocesan Organisation**

The Bishop and the Revd Canon Jeremy Oakes, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, presented proposals on changes to the governance of the Diocese.

Concerns were expressed regarding:

- The legal position for members of the new DBF/Synod
- Checks and balances
- Concentrating too much power into the hands of a single body
- The clergy/lay balance

Positive perceptions of the change included:

- It will improve management of the Diocese
- It will create a more agile, responsive and effective way of running the Diocese
- There will be greater transparency and accountability

It was noted that members of both Synod and Bishop's Council will need to be prepared to take on additional responsibilities. The proposals were commended to Synod and members were asked to reflect on and discuss the proposals before they are brought back to Synod to be voted on in February 2006.

**7. Questions**

Mr Michael Read (Alderbury Deanery) Asked: "What is the value of a clergy unit?"  
Mr Michael Armstrong (Bishop's Council and Board of Finance) replied that in 2005 the value of a unit was £46,527 and the projected value for 2006 was £47,384. These figures were, however, based on a system which had not been in use for 5 years.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

10 am on Saturday 25 February 2006.

**11. Any Other Business**

Synod congratulated the members of the diocesan cricket team for their success in winning the Church Times Cup.

An informal report of Diocesan Synod prepared by Mrs Kate Pardy, Diocesan Communications Officer, may be found on the diocesan web site at <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org>