

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD
MINUTES OF THE 89th SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, CORFE MULLEN ON SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2006**

- 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 promulgated Amending Canon No 24. Apologies were received from 13 clergy, 16 laity and one Bishop.
- 3 The Diocesan Advisory Committee Award**
The Archdeacon of Sherborne outlined this new award to recognise excellence in Faculty application and works. The Bishop of Sherborne then presented certificates to:
Mr Geoff Taylor on behalf of Salisbury St Thomas and St Edmund
The Revd Michael Flight on behalf of Hilmarton St Lawrence
The Revd Peter Hunter on behalf of Warminster Christ Church
- 4. The Church and the Environment**
Standing Orders were suspended. David Shreeve, Adviser on conservation issues for the Church of England, and John Tomblin, representing Dorset Agenda 21, provided some background information. Comments from Synod at this stage included:
 - The Eco Congregations Scheme should be promoted
 - We are already facing environmental disaster and the only realistic solution is likely to be nuclear energy
 - We need to be radical about our buildings because in many cases the only ecologically sound course is to get rid of our energy-inefficient, uninsulated churches
 - Money is wasted as well as energy if we do not tackle the sustainability of our buildings
 - The diocese should make its housing stock energy efficient
 - It would be helpful if Synod could be provided with concrete examples of actions that congregations could take
 - We are heavily dependent on our local Councils and congregations should be pressurising them to put in place suitable recycling processes
 - Wood burners are feasible for churches and are carbon neutral
 - Small actions, such as buying local produce rather than produce that has been transported great distances, can have big environmental benefits
 - Do we need all the paper we use for our services (Synod liturgy included)?
 - Revolutionary action is required but will English Heritage allow us to do what is necessary?

The Diocesan Advisor on Environmental Issues, the Revd Canon Dr Jean Coates moved the Motion on behalf of Bishop's Council:

"a) That every church in the diocese should make itself responsible for producing a proportion of its own energy needs by 2010, and

b) That every church should develop a plan for recycling at least 40% of its waste by the same date"

Mr Paul Boyd-Lee (General Synod) proposed an amendment to encourage churches to produce a "significant proportion" of their energy needs from "renewable sources", to

aim to recycle all their waste where practicable and for churches to report back to Bishop's Council on their progress by 2010.

Synod then split into discussion groups to consider the motion, the amendment and what action churches might take towards achieving the specified aims. The following additional feedback resulted:

- Parishes need help and advice about conducting energy audits
- Information is needed on low energy lighting such as adaptors for LEDs
- Old boilers should be replaced with modern fuel-efficient models
- Pipes should be lagged and draughts blocked
- Those with plumbing, carpentry, etc skills in our congregations should be approached for help
- Sheep can be used to cut grass in churchyards
- Coppicing in churchyards could produce sustainable fuel
- Churches could pay a bit extra to sign up for one of the green electricity tariffs
- Churches should reduce their energy needs as well as buying from renewable resources. Our consumption has increased and we should accept that some sacrifices will now be necessary
- Congregations should consider joining one another to fill fewer churches to a greater extent (at least in winter)
- Encourage congregations to take ownership of environmental measures – get the environmental thinking into people's homes
- There is a great need for education
- Church magazines could publish hints and tips on energy saving
- PCCs or deaneries could create an environment "post"
- There are more and cheaper small wind turbines on the market now
- Double glaze stained glass windows and fit secondary entrance doors
- The diocese should review all its properties starting with clergy houses
- Too much paper is used. We should worship more efficiently
- Churches should influence government and local Councils, firstly by setting a good example
- Young people in the parishes can be encouraged to take up these issues
- Parishes should be asked to do an audit and report back in a year, not wait until 2010
- The whole issue needs the support of many people including Synod, congregations and the senior clergy
- The DAC and English Heritage need to be encouraged to be sympathetic
- Please can the DAC note this debate and provide guidelines on good practice
- Everyone in the wider sense has responsibility. This could be a major opportunity for mission
- Please provide information packs for parishes
- Someone in the diocesan hierarchy should take responsibility for co-ordinating all this

There were several attempts to widen the scope and increase the strength of the Motion. Synod felt that it needed more information and more radical action than at first envisaged. Synod voted to adjourn the debate under Standing Order 55 so that it can be resumed when more work has been done by Bishop's Council.

5. The Re-Structure of Diocesan Governance

The Archdeacon of Wilts and Mr Gil Williams (member of Bishop's Council) presented the proposed changes to the governance of the diocese. The responses to questions were given as follows:

1. The changes will enable Bishop's Council to improve the flow of business and communication so there should be time for better and correctly considered decisions.
2. There will be a saving in the numbers involved in diocesan boards because of the removal of duplication.

3. Although some Synod members will need financial skills, others will need other skills to help address and inform the full range of business
4. The lay majority is secure in the new Synod and the Board of Finance. For Bishop's Council the mix will change depending on which individuals are occupying which posts; earlier representations from Synod had been listened to, the membership had been considered very carefully and this was felt to be the best mix that could be achieved.
5. It will be the role of governance to provide the checks and balances although much will depend on the people involved and how well they carry out their functions.
6. Item 5 paragraph 5 is standard legal wording to allow for minor amendments which do not affect the sense of the document. This would cover, for example, minor changes of wording requested from time to time by the Charity Commission and other regulatory bodies. If any such amendment should take place, Synod will be informed.
7. There will be imperfections in the proposed structures but it is up to those involved to work through any disconnects they might discover or to bring them back to Synod for direction.

The Archdeacon of Wilts then moved on behalf of Bishop's Council:

"That this Synod approves the proposed restructuring of the Diocesan system of Governance as set out in the report entitled 'Proposals from Bishop's Council for further changes to Diocesan Structures' V3 as presented to Diocesan Synod in November 2005 and resolves:

1. To adopt the amended Functions Constitution and Standing Orders for Synod including the provisions for membership of Bishop's Council a copy of which is attached to and distributed with this Motion paper such Functions Constitution and Standing Orders to come into force and effect immediately after the end of the current triennium.
2. To invite and request the Diocesan Board of Finance to obtain the permission of the Charity Commission and any other relevant authority to adopt the new Memorandum and Articles of Association and other constitutional documents and provisions (if any) set out in the draft attached to and distributed with this Motion Paper and upon the granting of such permission to adopt as its constitution such constitution as is therein contained such adoption to take effect on such date as may be identified and resolved by the Members of that Board being the first date after the next Synod following the end of the current triennium and of the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee of that Synod shall all have come into being.
3. To direct the Secretary of the Synod to conduct the elections for membership of the next Synod after the end of the current triennium so that all candidates shall be eligible to serve as charity trustees (as has been the case since 1993 under the Church Representation Rule no. 46A) and shall be elected to membership of the new Synod and also to membership of the Diocesan Board of Finance upon the taking effect of the adoption of the new constitution of that Board as provided for in the foregoing paragraph of this motion.
4. To adopt with effect from the coming into effect of the new constitution of the Diocesan Board of Finance as provided for in paragraph 2 of this Motion the amended Scheme designating and regulating the Diocesan Board of Finance as the Parsonages Board of the Diocese pursuant to the Repair of Benefice Buildings Measure 1972 and the amended Management Scheme pursuant to the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 copies of the drafts of which are attached to and distributed with this Motion Paper
5. To authorise and empower Bishop's Council on behalf of Synod to make such minor amendment or amendments (not being any amendment in substance to the overall purposes of this Motion) to any of the documents referred to in the above paragraphs of this Motion as may be required by law or regulation or by any body or person having proper jurisdiction so to require to enable the

purposes of this Motion to proceed where such purposes cannot be achieved without such amendment”

A count of votes was undertaken and Synod agreed the Motion.

6. Diocesan Synod

6.1 Synod approved the Motion:

a) This Synod, in order to ensure a majority for the House of Laity and that the total membership of the Synod and Board of Finance lies between 150 and 270 members, determines that the formula for lay representation shall be modified to elect 6 deanery representatives where there are 3001 to 4000 on the electoral roll and 7 deanery representatives where there are more than 4001 on the electoral roll. It also determines that the numbers of clergy members to be elected by the Houses of Clergy of the deanery synods shall be on a proportion of 20% of the membership of those Houses.

b) It further determines that the form of voting paper to be used by the deaneries in this election and for any election to fill a casual vacancy occurring during the next ensuing three years shall be that contained in Section 7 of Appendix 1 of Church Representation Rules, modified so as to include election to the Diocesan Board of Finance, which is for elections to be decided by simple majority.”

6.1 The Archdeacon of Dorset commented on the results of the discussions at the previous Synod on the subject of “How to get the best out of Synod”. Additional requests included that there be a slot for General Synod matters at every Diocesan Synod meeting; that the lunch break be perhaps 45 minutes rather than half an hour; that the House of Laity have the opportunity to meet informally; that Synod continues to be aware of disability issues. In addition, meetings on Friday evenings were unpopular and the Archdeacon undertook to take the matter to Bishop’s Council with a view to identifying a more popular time and day for the new triennium.

7. Questions

There were no questions.

10. Date of Next Meeting

6 pm on Friday 16 June 2006.

11. Any Other Business

Under Standing Order 22 the Synod Notice Paper was amended to bring an additional Motion before Synod. Synod then agreed:

“That this Synod consents, as required by Section 10 of the Dioceses Measure 1978, to the delegation by the Diocesan Bishop of his functions under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 to the Suffragan Bishop of Sherborne in the terms of the instrument of delegation which has been laid before this Synod this 25th day of February 2006”

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