



**SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD
MINUTES OF THE 95th SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH CORFE MULLEN ON SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2008**

1. Opening Worship and Presidential Address

Members took part in the Liturgy of the Word and the Bishop of Sherborne, the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, delivered the Presidential Address. He reflected on Malachi 3, 1-5 and suggested that waiting can be a time full of energy and planning. However, it is possible to become anxious about what one is waiting for and then not be fully engaged with the moment. He asked Synod to be fully engaged in order to open up the possibility for change in this moment and the possibility of having an impact on the future.

A full copy of the presidential address is available from the web-site at www.salisbury.anglican.org or from fiona.torrance@salisbury.anglican.org at the Diocesan Office.

2. Notices, Co-options and Apologies

The Diocesan Secretary reported that the lead article in the February Sarum Link described some of the creative uses to which the return of the 2006 budget surplus had been applied.

The Diocesan Secretary introduced a fold-out brochure produced by the Communications Team entitled "The Diocese of Salisbury". Copies were available for Synod members to take back to their parishes and more copies may be obtained from Mr Geoff Taylor at Church House.

The House of Clergy co-opted the Retired Clergy Area Officers for the Ramsbury and Sherborne Episcopal Areas, the Revd Michael Turner and the Revd David Thompson, to represent the retired clergy of the diocese.

Apologies were received from 8 clergy, 16 laity and 1 bishop.

3 Healthy Childhoods

The Chairman and staff from the Diocesan Board of Education, together with Ruth Wells, Centre Manager for the Fusion project run by Bournemouth Youth Service and Bournemouth YMCA, lead a discussion on "How are we in the Diocese of Salisbury transforming our understanding and nurturing of young people so we can improve their wellbeing?".

Members were asked to:

- Ignore the negative stereotypes of young people so often presented by the media and accept that children and young people are fundamentally the same as all adults were at their age.
- Consider how a church might reflect a special place for a child or young person.
- Consider how the voices of children and young people are listened to in our churches.
- Consider how the Church can play a part in the formation of healthy individual life journeys.

Some of the ways in which the Board of Education seeks to assist parishes and deaneries in playing their part are:

- A series of deanery sessions to identify needs and share ideas.
- A training program.
- The introduction of a youth synod.

In addition, staff of the Board of Education are always pleased to offer help and advice.

The Director of Education, Mr Chris Shepperd, described the important role of Church Schools. It was noted that the national norm is for one Schools Adviser to support 60 schools, but the Diocese of Salisbury has an unusually large number of Church Schools and our Adviser therefore supports 200.

The Archdeacon of Dorset and Chairman of the Board of Education, the Ven Alistair Magowan, then moved on behalf of Bishop's Council:

“That this Synod approves the creation of the new post of Schools' Adviser”.

The Motion was carried with 2 votes against.

4. Sudan and Cathedral Celebrations

The Bishop of Sherborne presented proposals for a pre-Lambeth conference at which hospitality would be provided for the visiting Sudanese bishops and their wives. The bishops would visit the deaneries and the Bishop hoped that other deaneries might follow Wimborne's lead in setting up a deanery link with the Sudan. The Pre-Lambeth conference would over-lap with a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Old Sarum and a big party as part of the celebrations for the 35th anniversary of the Salisbury:Sudan link and the 750th anniversary of the Cathedral.

It was accepted that earlier planning would have enabled the cost of these initiatives to be included in the budget for 2008 but it was also noted that on this occasion the cost would be met from legacies and was not therefore a burden on Share.

The Bishop of Sherborne then moved:

“That the Synod approves the funding for the Sudan Partners Conference and the Diocesan Pilgrimage”.

The Motion was carried unanimously.

5. The DAC Annual Report and the DAC Awards

The Canon Treasurer and Chairman of the DAC, Canon Mark Bonney, presented the DAC Annual Report. There had been 1/3rd more site visits in 2007 than in the previous year and 87% of applications had been approved at the first meeting at which they were submitted. The revised Inspection of Churches Scheme had come into force on 1 January 2008. There was an on-going problem with theft of metals, particularly lead, from churches.

The Chairman presented DAC awards to St Mary Beaminster in respect of refurbishment of the Hilary Chapel and St Nicholas Nether Compton in respect of re-ordering of the interior.

6. Re-discovering our Parish Churches

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Chairman of the DAC and the Diocesan Secretary outlined the vision and proposals for a pilot project, in partnership with English Heritage, to determine a strategy for Church buildings in the Diocese of Salisbury. There were questions to be addressed in respect of:

- the suitability of individual buildings
- the way we want to approach worship
- our partnerships with the communities in which the buildings are set
- deanery plans and mission action plans

English Heritage will provide both funding and expertise for the pilot project which will take place in Devizes and Heytesbury archdeaconries.

The Bishop moved:

“That this Synod:

1. Recognises the importance of increasing confidence at all levels in the Diocese by stirring the imagination of deaneries and parishes on the future of their buildings in the context of their mission plans and of the setting of these buildings in the communities they serve.
2. Approves the pilot project and the funding required.
3. Asks Bishop’s Council to monitor the project and to report back in November 2009.”

The Motion was carried nem con.

7. Church and Community Development for Mid and West Wilts

The Archdeacon of Sarum, the Ven Alan Jeans, presented proposals for a new post aimed at fostering partnerships between local churches and encouraging those partnerships to engage with their local communities. This would be a mission post, working within the five marks of mission, forging non-church partnerships and making a significant difference to the lives of people living in Wiltshire.

The Archdeacon of Sarum moved on behalf of Bishop’s Council:

“That this Synod approves the creation of the new post of Church and Community Officer for West and Mid Wilts.”

The Motion was carried unanimously.

8. A Strategy for Deployment of Ministers

The Archdeacon of Wilts, the Ven John Wraw, presented proposals for deployment based on the five priorities set out for the strategic deployment of ministers in the Diocese of Salisbury as agreed by Synod in November 2007. This recognised the projected reduction in stipendiary ministers and increase in many non-stipendiary forms of ministry and suggested a deanery points system as a way of planning for and deploying people resources. Key points were:

- to encourage clear benefice profiles in order to achieve sound appointments
- to make full use of all forms of ministry
- to create a framework which would help deaneries to plan effectively
- to provide a clear but flexible structure for allocating resources

It was recognised that the population figures would need revisiting in due course because these are based on the 2001 census as it had proved impossible to get hard and fast county population projections. It was also recognised that the issue of deanery synods in relation to the parish/benefice/team structures would need to be addressed at a future date although it did not form part of this Motion.

Mr Tim Price (Salisbury Deanery) proposed amendments at points 8.3 and 8.5 of the Motion in order to affirm deaneries in the decision-making process and present more dynamic deanery involvement in preparing action plans. Synod approved both proposed amendments with 87 in favour and 2 against at point 8.3 and 82 in favour and 6 against at point 8.5.

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

“That this Synod

1. Encourages PCCs to address issues of mission and collaborative ministry in drawing up parish profiles when seeking to make a new appointment; and

requests the archdeacons to issue guidelines to PCCs to aid them in this task.

2. Celebrates the growth of vocations to a diversity of ministries and urges deaneries and parishes with the support of the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Team to continue to foster vocations.
3. Offers to the deaneries of the diocese the proposed system of deanery points as a fair and equitable way of allocating ministry resources.
4. Affirms that the Diocese of Salisbury will seek to maintain the numbers of stipendiary clergy in line with national allocations.
5. Requests each deanery to produce an action plan detailing how it could use the resources for ministry set out in the strategy for deployment in furthering mission and ministry in the deanery and submit that plan to the relevant Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee for its meeting in autumn 2008 together with any requests for changes in allocation to enable them to fulfil the aims of their deanery strategic plan.
6. Asks Deaneries and Benefices to work with the Bishop's Council in developing additional funding streams to support the growth of ministry in the Diocese.

The Motion as amended was carried unanimously apart from item 5 where six members voted against.

9. Reports to note

Synod noted the finance report for 31 December 2007.

10. Questions

There were no questions.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

Synod will next meet from 6 pm to 9 pm on Wednesday 18 June at St Paul's Church, Salisbury. Any Motions, proposals for business or other matters should be with the Diocesan Secretary by 11 June.

12. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Synod closed with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.