



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD
MINUTES OF THE 102nd SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT
MARKET LAVINGTON COMMUNITY HALL ON SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2010**

1. Opening Worship and Presidential Address

Members took part in the Liturgy of the Word and the Bishop of Ramsbury delivered the Presidential Address.

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 Chairman reported that Mr Richard Southwell, Chairman of the House of Laity, had stood down and Synod expressed its thanks for his dedication and hard work during his time in office. An election to find a replacement will take place in due course.

Synod welcomed the Dean of Riga, the Very Revd Elijs Godins and the Revd Dr Richard Harper.

The House of Clergy co-opted the Very Revd Alan Woods, Clergy Retirement Officer for Sherborne, replacing the Revd David Thompson who had retired from this rôle. The House of Clergy also co-opted the Revd Maureen Allchin.

Synod welcomed the newly elected diocesan representatives onto General Synod.

Apologies were received from 13 clergy and 13 laity.

3 Women in the Episcopate

Synod noted that the draft Measure admitting women to the episcopate had been formally referred to dioceses for consideration and that the main debate for Diocesan Synod would take place in June 2011 after Deanery Synods had been given an opportunity to discuss the proposals and express their views on how the move to women bishops should be accomplished.

The Dean and the Revd Dr Richard Harper, vicar of Weymouth St Paul, introduced a preliminary discussion and debate to start the process of deliberation. They came from different viewpoints, but both emphasised the importance of the union of Church members and of baptismal solidarity. Their presentation was in the form of a dialogue with each stating their views and responding to the views of the other. Some of the areas discussed were:

- Are we making the Church what we want it to be?
- What does a Church in step with secular society have to offer that society?
- The doctrine of revelation is one of the major differences between those in favour and those against the proposed provisions.
- Much of the language of the provisions seems to be about jurisdiction rather than about service and enabling.
- The legislation repeals Resolutions A and B.
- The code of practice could be enacted in different ways depending on individual bishops.
- Women could be devalued by the legislation in its proposed form.

- The principal decision is how to enable ecclesiological integrity and provide space in the Church for those who in conscience cannot support this measure not just to survive but to thrive.
- It is hoped that the evangelicals and also the laity in rural areas will have a proper voice in the debate.
- The legislation could be viewed as too narrow.
- Equality has been a forceful social theme in recent years, but what General Synod voted for was not essentially about equality; there is a theological principal that one ordains to all three orders or not at all.

Synod members shared with each other their reactions when they first heard that women were to be bishops. They recognised that everyone had different responses and that consensus was not expected but that everyone should practice respect of each other's views.

The Dean and Mr Harper then discussed what they hoped will be achieved from the legislation and what the mechanisms and criteria for success might look like:

- The legislation should be theologically rooted.
- There is a need to clarify views on, for example, impaired communion.
- The unity of the Church is Christ's gift to us so it is our duty to work together, recognising the conflicts which will not necessarily be resolved.
- The principle is that all bishops in the Church of England are in communion with each other and all clergy and laity are in communion with their bishop.
- Which model of women bishops best serves doing mission at local level yet looking beyond the local?
- The General Synod opted for "Delegated Authority" because "Transfer of Authority", although considered thoroughly, could not be made to work. Some will feel, however, that a male bishop delegated by a female bishop will be the same as a female bishop.
- We must all recognise that we cannot resolve all our conflicts, but must aim for clarity and charity.
- In respect of sacramental assurance, some will be looking for a slightly different form of episcopal oversight than the legislation is giving.
- The choice of words is important; the debate is not about the nature of being female.
- In voting for this legislation everyone will have to let go of some options which they might have preferred.
- It is important that in the future people can trust one another and can be encouraged to thrive.

Further work in discussion groups was followed by open debate where some members regretted that the Archbishops' Amendment at the General Synod had been lost whilst others felt that the right decision had been made. The Bishop of Ramsbury asked members to take soundings as widely as possible in the parishes, deaneries and diocese to ascertain the views of the people. The primary vote will be taken by Diocesan Synod in June 2011 but the views of others will be indicative of the view of the wider diocese.

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

"This Synod asks each Deanery Synod to consider and vote on, by house, the following motion:

"That this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and in the draft Amending Canon No 30".

And that the results of their votes are returned to the Diocesan Secretary by 1 June 2011".

The Motion was agreed nem con.

4. **Clergy Terms of Service**

The Archdeacon of Wilts gave a progress report on the preparations for the introduction of clergy terms of service (CTS) from 1 February 2011. He commented that there was a complex connection between the culture and structure of any organisation. CTS will very much shape the culture of the Church in the future. He summarised what Common Tenure offered and emphasised that key underlying principles for the diocese would be:

- wellbeing and the common good.
- development of the individual
- redemption and transformation
- interdependence and mutual accountability
- diversity of gifts and fulfilment of vocation

From 1 February all new clergy appointments will automatically be under Common Tenure and the Archdeacon spoke of the importance of:

- Making the right appointments and how to help this to happen.
- Providing ministerial development and review.
- Providing support, for example in resolving conflicts in a positive way.

All the information will be open-access so everyone will be able to see what the policies and associated information are.

The Archdeacon thanked those who had worked with him in the implementation group. There were no questions.

5. **Working Together for Parishes and Schools**

Canon John Holbrook, on behalf of Bishop's Council, outlined draft proposals to relocate the Diocesan Offices and combine the staff of the DBF and DBE in a single location. The suggested move had been precipitated by the DBE being required to relinquish early the lease on its current premises. It would be paid by Wiltshire Council to relocate. Canon Holbrook briefly outlined the shortcomings of the current old diocesan offices and the benefit which had accrued from the DBE moving from Audley House to modern premises a few years ago. The proposal to combine offices was driven by the theological principle that we do things together as part of the body of Christ. Detailed investigations were still taking place, but Synod would be kept involved and informed.

Synod welcomed Sir Al Aynsley-Green, the new Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Education. Continuing the theme of working together, Sir Al recommended "The Good Childhood Enquiry 2009" and commented that the UK is bottom of the twenty one richest countries in the world for outcomes for children and young people. He called for an overarching diocesan strategy based on understanding actual needs, integrated with a DBE strategy for education and for children and young people. He believed that a co-located diocesan staff could help deliver this and that such a move should go hand-in-hand with a functional joining together of Cathedral, parishes and communities. He asked Synod to support the direction of travel and to consider how it could help.

The Chairman DBF outlined the financial elements and the risk management that had been put in place. The project would not be cost neutral, but Bishop's Council had imposed an upper cost limit and there would be no impact on Share. A steering group was in place, an architect had been appointed and the Finance Committee would monitor progress and cashflow. The architect was producing two possible schemes and a planning consultant had been appointed. The aim was to have as much information as possible in place by the meeting of Bishop's Council on 25 November so that an informed decision could be made, based on an accurate understanding of the costs, as to whether or not the scheme was viable.

Synod was generally supportive and comments included:

- It is very important that the communications are handled properly.
- This vision should be grasped. Some parishes have themselves pursued great visions and have raised enormous amounts of money to make them happen.

- Don't forget the support needed by small villages working hard at the Church's grass roots.

Any further comments should be addressed to the Diocesan Secretary.

6. Mothers' Union

Mrs Ann Howard, President of the Diocese of Salisbury Mothers' Union (MU), gave a presentation on the work of the MU in the diocese. She was assisted by Mrs Jane Lax, Vice-President. The perception was that the MU was just for women, but it was for everyone and many different people join. She asked Synod to consider the fresh opportunities which the MU offers. MU objectives reflect the Five Marks of Mission and the MU connects with people at many stages of their lives. She asked Synod to allow the MU to work closely with it in all aspects of the work of the diocese.

The Bishop of Ramsbury commented that as a single person the most important way in which he related to children and families was as a Godparent. Mrs Howard responded that the MU had resources on Godparenting. The MU was constantly seeking new ways to engage more holistically with families and wider families, including church groups and Godparents.

Synod members had all been given a response form and were asked to complete these and return them to Mrs Howard.

7. Deanery Synod Elections 2011

The Bishop of Ramsbury moved on behalf of Bishop's Council, and Synod approved that:

"This Synod agrees that the formula for parochial representation contained in the Constitution of Deanery Synods should remain unchanged for the triennium 2011 - 2014 as follows:

Numbers on Electoral Roll	Numbers of representatives on Deanery Synods
1- 25	1
26- 100	2
101- 200	3
201- 300	4
301- 400	5
401- 500	6
501- 750	7
751- 1000	8
Over 1000	9

And that the numbers to be elected by individual parishes should be as published on the web site and displayed at the Synod."

8. Reports to note

Synod noted:

- The finance report for 30 September 2010. The Chairman reported that this represented encouraging news on Share collection and that a huge "thank you" was owed to parishes.
- That the Council of Mission, approved by Diocesan Synod in June, has now been established and its first meetings will be held in November and December. The membership was: The Archdeacons of Sarum and Sherborne, The Revd Philip Bromiley, Mr Barry Smith, Mrs Bridget Trump, Canon John Holbrook, Mrs Chris Corteen, Mr Gil Williams, Mr Colin Brady, the Revd Kate Sax, the Revd Michael Deagan, The Revd Jonathan Triffitt (ex-officio), Mrs Ann Howard (President of the MU, in attendance). The Secretary would be Mrs Debbie Albery.
- That the new diocesan web site will be launched at the beginning of December.

10. Questions

There were no questions.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

Synod will next meet on Saturday 5 February at Corfe Mullen. Any Motions, proposals for business or other matters should be with the Diocesan Secretary by 22 December.

12. Any Other Business

Synod noted that an official farewell to the Bishop of Ramsbury would take place at 3 pm in the Cathedral on 5 December, and then proceeded to make its own thanks by way of a prolonged standing ovation.

These Minutes are also available on the diocesan web site at www.salisbury.anglican.org together with a summary of Synod proceedings.