



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD
MINUTES OF THE 103rd SESSION OF THE SYNOD HELD AT
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH CORFE MULLEN ON SATURDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2010**

1. Opening Worship and Presidential Address

Members took part in the Liturgy of the Word and Bishop Christopher delivered the Presidential Address. He spoke of the warmth of the welcome he had received in the Diocese of Salisbury and said that whoever was finally appointed to be Bishop of the Diocese would be a very lucky person. He noted that the diocese was embarking on a lively exploration of what the cultural map of the future would be and he commented that when planning, the diocese should bear in mind the salient features of economics and trade which might influence decisions and mission. There would be great challenges ahead but, because God is God, the future is filled with promise.

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 welcomed all visitors to the Synod and introduced Mr Robert Key, the newly elected Chairman of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod.

Apologies were received from 14 clergy and 6 laity.

3. Chaplaincy to the Deaf

The Chairman of the House of Clergy introduced the Revd John Cowburn, Diocesan Chaplain to the Deaf and responsible for the pastoral, spiritual and moral welfare of deaf people in the diocese, who spoke about the development of Deaf Church and about deaf culture in general. He works both ecumenically and with groups, clubs and organisations such as Dorset & Wiltshire Sight and Sense Teams and Social Services. He appreciates the growing number of invitations he has received to speak to Deanery Synods and explain both the problems of translating the language of worship for deaf people and how he can help in areas such as:

- Assisting with weddings, funerals and baptisms which knowingly have deaf people attending,
- Giving talks about deaf awareness to PCCs, LLMs, LPAs, churchwardens, schools, churches, house groups and chapters,
- Assisting the DAC in the advice given about induction loop installation – and he asked Synod members to bear in mind how important it was to have correct installation and operation,
- Working ecumenically because signing is not parochial or denominational.

He asked Synod to remember that for many deaf people English is not their first language, not even in its written form. He was happy to report that there are now several churches in the diocese which provide deaf culture worship. He is pursuing his own training and, in addition, there are now three clergy in the diocese also interested in training in sign language. His ultimate aim was to have enough groups trained around the diocese for them to become self-supporting. He also aimed one day to find a deaf person able to take over his chaplaincy role.

He finished his presentation by leading Synod in signing the Grace.

4. **New Patterns of Sustainable Ministry**

The Archdeacon of Sherborne introduced a discussion on collaborative ministry and the engagement of lay people. He referred to the example of Salisbury's link diocese of Evreux and how the issues of falling numbers of stipendiary clergy and large, rural, multi-parish benefices are being tackled there. Canon Harold Stephens spoke of the locally chosen, episcopally endorsed leadership teams which now operate there and which have enfranchised the laity. The Archdeacon of Wilts reflected on some of the principles from the Evreux model which might also apply to the Diocese of Salisbury. He put this in the context of much good work already present here, but felt that there was potential for "added value". He referred Synod to the proposal for a pilot scheme to explore and develop lay energised ministry patterns and for a co-ordinator to support this work.

Synod members held informal discussions and the Archdeacon of Sherborne, on behalf of Bishop's Council, moved that:

"This Synod gives its support to the continuing development of lay energised local ministry patterns through the proposed pilot scheme. Also that the benefices participating in the pilot be supported and mentored by a half time post appointed expressly for this purpose."

Mrs Debbie Mclsaac, General Synod, then spoke to an amendment she had previously submitted. She believed that it was for deaneries to decide whether they wished to participate in the consultations and how they wished to do this. Comments resulting from the debate on the amendment included:

- It will be the business of the proposed Reference Group to consult with the stakeholders.
- It is too much to expect the proposed half time post to undertake the additional work implied by the amendment.
- The stakeholders will need to be engaged and kept informed of the progress of the pilot schemes, but this is a much wider responsibility.
- If involved, the deaneries may come up with some important things to inform the pilot project.

The Archdeacon of Sherborne responded that he did not believe there was anything in the amendment, in terms of breadth of consultation, which was not implied by the original proposal. Mrs Mclsaac then moved that:

"This Synod gives its support to the continuing development of lay energised local ministry patterns through the proposed pilot scheme and through consultation with Deaneries and stakeholders. Also that the benefices participating in the pilot be supported and mentored and the Deaneries' and stakeholders' consultations be facilitated by a half time post appointed expressly for this purpose."

The amendment was lost with 10 members in favour and 71 against.

The original Motion was then debated and the Archdeacon of Sherborne clarified that:

- The proposed appointment was initially envisaged as an ordained person so that the concept of "embedded practitioner" could take root.
- There will be conversations with other projects already in existence.
- It is understood that many clergy will be interested and would like to be included as stakeholders.
- Sensitivity will be required in not assuming that laity have more time to contribute than they actually do have.
- Those who are not going to be part of the pilot scheme, but who are nevertheless interested, can begin to move in the same direction and learn.

The Motion was then voted on and passed with 85 in favour, nem con.

5. **Cathedral Annual Report**

The Dean had tabled copies of the Cathedral's 2010 Annual Report and spoke to the main points. The large number of events and exhibitions continued and, although visitor numbers had been down, education work was an area of growth. Financial pressures meant that restructuring had had to take place with some redundancies. The major repair programme was, however, continuing on a slightly smaller budget. Looking to the future she highlighted:

- Opportunities around the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta
- Consideration of how to strengthen the future of the Cathedral School
- Consultants looking at traffic management in the Close
- Following successful re-landscaping of the Garth, a recently commissioned landscape study of the historic bishops' garden

She looked forward to the consecration of a new bishop in due course.

6. **DAC Awards**

The DAC awards recognise exceptional quality, presentation and results in applications that come before the Committee. The Chairman DAC presented awards to representatives from:

- Chickerell St Mary for a project to provide flexible use of space and more seating by means of a new two-storey extension plus re-ordering within the church.
- Savernake Forest St Katherine for a project to install a larger organ, better suited to the church and its needs.
- Erlestoke Holy Saviour for a project to create community space for the surrounding community in place of the old village hall, including toilets and a kitchen area.

The Chairman thanked the DAC Secretary, Mrs Sue Cannings, and her assistant, Mr Richard Wainwright. He also praised the architects and consultants who give so ably and generously of their time. He commented that on the rare occasions when a Form 1 is turned down, it is often because the DAC have not been involved from the start of the project. He strongly encouraged parishes to involve the DAC in their plans at the earliest stage possible.

7. **Demonstration of New Web Site**

Mr Michael Ford, Diocesan Communications Co-ordinator, gave a brief presentation on the new diocesan web site, explaining to Synod members some of what can be found and done through the site. He encouraged those who do not already use the site to do so.

8. **The Anglican Communion Covenant**

The Bishop of Sherborne introduced proposals that had been referred by the General Synod for consideration by dioceses. He explained that the issue was to do with identity; with who we are in the Church of England and how we relate to the anglican communion. He described the suggested process and then moved on behalf of Bishop's Council that:

“This Synod approves the proposed process for a debate and vote on the Anglican Communion Covenant.”

Mr Christopher Fielden, Bradford Deanery and General Synod, felt that because the Covenant was for the whole Anglican Communion and because the Church of England is a “bottom-up” Church, there should be the maximum amount of opportunity given to all members of the Church to discuss the matter. He therefore proposed the amendment he had previously submitted, to add to the original Motion the words: “following discussion at Deanery Synods.”

In debating the amendment, the following points were made:

- There is a difference between asking deaneries to simply discuss the matter or requiring them to vote and report back.
- Additional meetings would be a burden whereas deanery synod meetings will be taking place anyway.
- General Synod members will be happy to speak at deanery synods.

- Evidence from some areas is that this may be more controversial than the women bishops issue.
 - The vote at Diocesan Synod will need to take place in February 2012.
- Although a few Synod members felt that it would be too much for deaneries to be given this added matter to consider, the majority felt that this underestimated the capacity and capabilities of deaneries. It was noted that to accept the amendment would require an adjustment to the proposed timetable for the process.

The amendment was passed with 41 members in favour and 39 against.

The Chairman then moved a final Motion to incorporate Mr Fielden's amendment and the adjusted timetable:

"That this Synod asks each Deanery Synod to consider and discuss the following Motion:

"That this Synod approve the draft Act of Synod adopting the Anglican Communion Covenant"

And that the results of their votes are returned to the Diocesan Secretary by 25 January 2012."

The Motion was carried with 5 members voting against.

9. Reports to note

Synod noted the finance report for 31 December 2010.

10. Questions

There were no questions.

11. Dates of Next Meeting

Synod will next meet from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturday 25 June at St Paul's Church, Salisbury. Any Motions, proposals for business or other matters should be with the Diocesan Secretary by 4 May.