

Meeting of Synod

Saturday 18th March 2023 at 9.30am

The Academy of St Nicholas, Horrocks Avenue, Liverpool L19 5NY

Diocesan Prayer

Loving God, by your grace we long to see more people knowing Jesus, and more justice in your world. Help us to live as your disciples in the power of the Spirit and to work to your praise and glory. Amen

Present: Rt Revd Bev Mason (President, Bishop of Warrington), Debra Walker (Chair of the House of Laity), Rev Canon Sam Nicolson (Chair of the House of Clergy), together with 59 members of Synod and **in attendance** 4 staff and 6 guests

Apologies: 22 members of Synod

Absent: 32 Members of Synod

Meeting commenced at 9.30am

Item	Note	Action Point
SESSION I: CHAIR – Rev Canon Sam Nicholson, Chair of the House of Clergy		
DS23(01)	Welcome and Introduction from Chair of House of Clergy The Chair (SN) welcomed all to this Synod and encouraged Members to fully engage in consideration, listening, discussion and debate. The Chair also advised during this meeting of Synod, she would be resigning the role given her new post in the Diocese and as noted on the Agenda at item DS23(08) there would be an election for the Chair of the House of Clergy.	
DS23(02)	Opening Prayer At the Chair’s request, members of the Tsedaqah Community, Christi Cunningham, Albert Osei and Derby Guerrier, introduced themselves, the work of the Tsedaqah Community and led Synod Members in a guided meditation followed by prayer.	
Introductory Items of Business		
DS23(03)	Minutes of October 2022 Synod Synod noted that the Minutes of October 2022 Synod having been approved by Bishop’s Council on behalf of Synod, as is normal practice, and thereafter circulated to Members.	
Update Items of Business		
DS23(04)	General Synod Report A detailed written report of General Synod Report having been circulated in advance, Rev Martin Thorpe (MT) gave a clear and concise overview of the salient points of the February 2023 Session of General Synod. With no	

	<p>questions from Members, Synod noted the content of the Report. The Chair thanked General Synod members for their work and in representing Liverpool Diocese and MT and DW for the presentation and written report.</p>	
DS23(05)	<p>Episcopal Appointment With the date having been published and circulated, the Bishop of Warrington (+B) welcomed the installation of the Bishop of Liverpool being 3pm on the 22nd April 2023 at the Cathedral. All are invited to attend.</p>	
DS23(06)	<p>DBF Finance Update Mike Eastwood (ME) presented the DBF Finance Update. ME recapped on Synod’s decision in October 2022 session to agree a budget for 2023 but would require more information to agree a budget for 2024. This session gave an update on the position to date. Putting money in the context of missional choice, ME guided Synod through the presentation setting out the Diocesan asset position in its historical context being the lowest asset base Diocese, the reasons for the recent reduced DBF income and how the Diocese is seeking a new settlement and the basis for that argument. ME outlined the issues with the current funding structure in the present circumstances and how that is likely to remain. ME advised Synod that the Diocese was seeking a one-off financial settlement from the National Church for 2023. Additionally, the Diocese is seeking agreement around the root cause of this Diocese’s financial challenge, believed to be due to the historic low asset base. ME presented Synod with the current plan containing 5 key elements being both external- and internal-facing solutions held in a three-fold partnership between national, diocese and deanery. ME advised Synod that the Diocese needed to leave future generations with missional viability and would not seek to simply erode the balance sheet so as to secure the immediate future but jeopardise future generations. ME advised there would be communications sent to enable clergy and parishioners not present today to fully understand the position and the plan. Synod noted the position. The Chair opened for questions and comments. <i>Rev Emma Williams, West Derby Deanery:</i> Not a question but to say thank you to ME and the finance team, acknowledging the amount of time and effort spent to seek a workable solution. At the Bishop’s invitation the Chair led Synod in prayer reflecting on all that had been heard.</p>	SH
Briefing Matters		
DS23(07)	<p>Net Zero Carbon 2030: A vision for the Diocese to reach NZC by 2030 Rev Canon Ellen Loudon, Director of Social Justice & Canon Chancellor introduced Phil Leigh, Diocesan Environmental Officer. Phil was welcomed to Synod and gave a detailed presentation entitled 'A Vision for our Diocese to reach NZC by 2030' together with graphics. Phil Leigh asked for three actions to be taken forward by churches (slide 7): i) to sign up to Eco Church; ii) to complete its Energy Footprint Tool and iii) investigate our individual environmental footprint. Synod noted the report and presentation. The Chair opened for questions and comments. <i>Rev Anne Taylor, Sefton North Deanery:</i> The Deanery is taking this issue incredibly seriously, but those with older churches are experiencing difficulties in making environmentally-beneficial changes to buildings due to heritage restrictions. Assistance from the NZC team with those conversations would be very welcome. <i>Rev Steve Beck, Wigan Deanery:</i> Are the team considering carbon offsetting as a primary consideration as the jury is out on the advantages around this? Phil Leigh responded that carbon offsetting would not be a primary consideration to achieve NZC2030 but would be a post-2030m consideration. <i>Rev Steve Beck, Wigan Deanery:</i> when looking at Diocesan meetings can we please consider access by public transport. <i>Rev Dan Leathers, St Helens Deanery:</i> Thank you to the NZC team for all the work undertaken and for the team work with the Deanery. Having sold a house, the parish is considering eco-improvements to the church but the cost is a significant concern: should this be invested in the building at this</p>	

	<p>time or held for reserves to help financial stability. Is there help available from the team to find available funding for such improvements? EL advised the National Church has put in to place a new social fund and encourages applications for loans for such items. PL added that Diocesan colleague, Richard Bennett is employed part-time to assist with fundraising help for environmental improvements.</p> <p><i>Nadine Daniel, Toxteth and Wavertree Deanery:</i> the CAFOD website has resources freely available which may be useful for parishes.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Phil Leigh for his presentation and for the work of the NZC2030 team. Ellen Loudon closed the item with prayer.</p>	
<p>With the next item DS23(08) being a matter for House of Clergy only, Members of the House of Laity and House of Bishops left the session.</p>		
DS23(08)	<p>Election to the Chair of the House of Clergy</p> <p>The Chair, having been recently appointed as Acting Archdeacon of Wigan and West Lancashire formally resigned her appointment as Chair of the House of Clergy. Synod thanked SN for her work as Chair. ME assumed the Chair for the duration of the Election. ME advised two valid nominations had been received: Rev Canon Anne Taylor (proposer Rev Canon Sam Nicholson, seconder Rev Emma Williams) and Rev Canon Peter Dawkin (proposer Ven Simon Fisher, seconder Rev Leslie Moss). ME declared a contested election. Rev Canon Anne Taylor (AT) asked to speak at this point. AT stated she would like to thank those who had approached her to stand for this role and those who had declared their support, however, this was a time for unity within our Diocese and the Church as a whole; to move to an election where clergy would by its nature need to choose between candidates through a contested election following hustings and a vote, is not a position she wished to force on members within the House of Clergy. For those reasons and to allow an election unopposed, AT advised she would formally withdraw her nomination. ME thanked AT for her consideration and for the integrity within her decision. The nomination withdrawn, ME advised Rev Canon Peter Dawkin was elected unopposed to the Chair of the House of Clergy.</p>	
<p>Synod broke for refreshment and reconvened at 1135hrs</p>		
<p>SESSION II: CHAIR – Debra Walker, Chair of the House of Laity</p>		
DS23(09)	<p>Report of the House of Clergy Election Result</p> <p>The Chair (DW) asked ME to give the Result of the Election. Synod noted that Rev Canon Peter Dawkin had been elected to the Chair of the House of Clergy unopposed.</p>	
DS23(10)	<p>Racial Justice: Our Vision for Our Future</p> <p>Rev Canon Ellen Loudon, Director of Social Justice & Canon Chancellor introduced Jennie Taylor, Diocesan and Cathedral Racial Justice Officer. Jennie thanked Synod for the invitation to speak and gave a detailed presentation entitled Racial Justice: Our Vision for Our Future. Synod noted the report. The Chair opened for questions and comments.</p> <p><i>Rev Canon Elaine Jones, Toxteth and Wavertree Deanery:</i> Within our churches there can be hidden barriers preventing people from being encouraged or seeking appointment to key decision-making processes and roles such as PCC. Leadership styles reflected in different cultures may play a part: can we better understand this so as to breakdown those barriers and enable more to feel able to volunteer for key roles? Jennie Taylor responded that part of the strategy will be training in unconscious bias, anti-racism and inter-cultural sensitivity which is relevant here.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Jennie Taylor for her report and the work she is undertaking: a challenging but hopeful message. At the Chair’s invitation, Paul Hancock closed the item in prayer of thanks for the work of the Racial Justice Officer and encouragement in the challenge before the Diocese.</p>	
DS23(11)	<p>Questions under Standing Order 68</p> <p>The Chair advised there had been several questions under SO68 which would be answered by ME and +B. The Chair further advised there would be opportunity for supplementary questions limited by time. The Questions</p>	

	under SO68 and the Responses have been published on the Diocesan website.	
DS23(12)	Presidential Address +B gave her Presidential Address with both written and audio versions available on the Diocesan website.	
DS23(13)	The meeting closed with prayer and blessing by the Bishop of Warrington.	