

## Meeting of Synod

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am

Quaker Meeting House 22 School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT

### Our 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 66 members of Synod and 4 staff

**Apologies:** 27 members of Synod


**Absent:** 19 Members of Synod

Meeting commenced at 9.15am

Item	Note	Action Point
<b>SESSION I: CHAIR – Rev Canon Sam Nicholson, Chair of the House of Clergy</b>		
<b>DS22/14</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction from Chair of House of Clergy</b> The Chair (SN) welcomed all to this Synod and encouraged Members to fully engage in consideration, listening, discussion and debate. The Chair introduced and welcomed Jesvin John recently co-opted to General Synod and now joins this Synod.	
<b>DS22/15</b>	<b>Opening Prayer</b> At the Chair's request, members of the Tsedaqah Community introduced themselves, the work of the Tsedaqah Community and led in the opening prayer.	
<b>DS22/16</b>	<b>Presidential Address</b> +B gave her Presidential Address <a href="#">with both written and audio versions available here on the Diocesan website.</a> Following the Presidential Address, the Chair invited Members to spend a few moments in silent prayer.	
<b>Introductory Items of Business</b>		
<b>DS22/17</b>	<b>Minutes of May 2022 Synod</b> Synod <b>noted</b> that the <a href="#">Minutes</a> having been approved by Bishop's Council on behalf of Synod as is normal practice and thereafter circulated to Members.	

<b>Update Items of Business</b>		
<b>DS22/18</b>	<b>General Synod Reports</b> With apologies to Members, the General Synod representative due to provide the report was unable to attend. The written report will be circulated in due course.	<b>PA</b>
<b>DS22/19</b>	<b>Lambeth Conference Report</b> +B reported on the <a href="#">Lambeth Conference 2022</a> . +B spoke of the mission of the Conference which meets every 10 years, its discussion of the global affairs, concerns and mission across the Anglican communion. The Conference's biblical focus was on 1Peter and the Conference theme was God's Church for God's World. The conference community explored thorough bible study, fellowship and discussion, what it means to be responsive to the needs of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century world and how together in listening, walking and witnessing, the Anglican community can prayerfully consider and respond to the big issues facing the world today. Ahead of the Conference, <a href="#">Lambeth Calls</a> document was published being the name given to the describe the declarations, affirmations and common calls to the church. Shared with Bishops before the conference, the <a href="#">9 calls</a> informed and shaped the discussion sessions. The Chair opened for questions and comments: <i>Canon Maggie Swinson, Chair of DBF and Member of General Synod:</i> Commenting in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), MS advised she had attended Lambeth Conference in that capacity. Her second time at Lambeth Conference MS commented on the significant change in the working relationship amongst those attending and a positive base for future work of the ACC. The reach of the Conference is significant and the importance of the Archbishop of Canterbury's statement made a significant impact on the relationship amongst attendees and gave a grace and understanding on the prayerful and honest discussions without fear of judgment and condemnation for holding differing views. <i>Caroline Ramsey, Sefton North: Encouraged by the Conference not seeking resolution but understanding, by conversation rather than instruction. There is also a concern is that decisions are made through debate and argumentation which may silence some from full involvement and celebrates only those who have won the argument. Much is lost when this is the measure of success. What can we do to ensure we can reach change and decision without resorting to this? +B responded that we seek conversation and make the widest possible invitation with facilitators to assist. The process followed for LLF within this Diocese used those principles.</i>	
<b>Briefing Matters</b>		
<b>DS22/20</b>	<b>Clergy Covenant</b> ADNPS introduced this item referring Members to the papers circulated in advance. <a href="#">Matthew 11:28-30</a> inspired this work which began at General Synod in July 2017 and this Synod in November 2020 passed the motion to welcome the Clergy Covenant, discuss in PCC how this can best inform parish life and to come to Synod for full debate. ADNPS commented on the pressures and challenges facing clergy, and that clergy well-being is intrinsically linked with the wellbeing of a church. Mutual respect and care are needed but we must recognise the need to care for ourselves which is not selfish: without self-care, we cannot properly care for others. The hope is if passed today, the Clergy Covenant, the implementation of which is shared by all - both clergy and laity, will be taken by Members to their Synods and PCCs for formal motions to support the Covenant. The Chair opened for questions and comment: <i>Ann Hulbert, Ormskirk: For the wellbeing of clergy, should we consider revising the single day off per week which in most other working practices would be regarded as inadequate. ADNPS answered that clergy are required to take 24-hour break in their week. If any clergy are not taking this break, Archdeacons would like to know so they can urge the clergy to take their rest for their well-being. If the burdens of work are preventing</i>	

	<p><i>proper rest day, Archdeacons do need to know and this makes the covenant even more important.</i></p> <p><i>Rev Dan Leathers, St Helens: Referred Members to Church of England <a href="#">website</a> and invited Members to read and consider the accompanying document from <a href="#">General Synod: "Reflection and Action for Clergy"</a>. In light of St Helens experience in regards to FfM, what has been learnt in terms of additional clergy pastoral support? ADNPS endorsed this and added that the Clergy Handbook was in process of being redrafted and put in the context of wellbeing and refer to the support available. In relation to St Helens, there has been significant learning including timing and support ensuring this is addressed and the timescale is adapted.</i></p> <p><i>Michael Swinson, Liverpool South: Whilst supporting the Covenant, there is nothing within this regarding lay leadership. No formalised care for lay leaders and yet lay leaders undertake a great deal of work and ministry often alongside other employment and with commitments. Will this Diocese look to introduce something similar in relation to lay leadership? ADNPS commented that this is absolutely right and we must equip our lay people to fulfil their calling where ever they are and there must be more conversation including clergy and lay wellbeing.</i></p> <p><i>Rev Canon Nicola Milford, Liverpool South: Expressed her thanks for all the work of lay leaders and offered her encouragement for all clergy, deanery synods and PCCs to table this for discussion and action. ADNPS thanked NM for her comments and her encouragement to colleagues in this.</i></p> <p><i>Caroline Ramsey, Sefton North: If stipendiary ministers change in the future how will this affect any pension entitlement and will the pension be lost? Further will the covenant apply to those still in active ministry beyond retirement? ADNPS no pension should be lost if taking up a calling but perhaps there were particular circumstance in the matter to which CR referred.</i></p> <p><b>ADNPS moved the Motion that this Synod: i) Adopts the Clergy Covenant; ii) Asks for a report to Synod in 12 months' time on how the Covenant has been implemented.</b></p> <p><b><i>The Motion was carried.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>DS22/21</b></p>	<p><b>PCC Code of Conduct</b></p> <p>ADNSF introduced the matter and referred to the supporting papers. Our PCCs are in the majority places of collaboration and discussion, however in a small number or on occasions the PCCs have found a small number of individuals have caused significant problems and disrupting the business of the PCC using that meeting opportunity to oppress and even bully others. This Code is non-statutory and does not change any of the rules in relation to PCCs. It is a Code devised to set and agree expectations and agreed procedures from the outset of the PCC's formation. It is asked that the PCC have this as an annual standing item on their first PCC following the APCM.</p> <p>The Chair opened for questions and comments:</p> <p><i>Rev Canon Elaine Jones, Toxteth &amp; Wavertree: The Deanery of Toxteth &amp; Wavertree implemented a Code of Conduct at Deanery Synod in April 2021 and this has been embraced and welcomed. EJ urged that a Code of Conduct be adopted for all meetings not simply PCC. ADNSF agreed with this suggestion and recommended it to other deaneries.</i></p> <p><i>Rev Crispin Pailing, Liverpool North: As the Chair in such meetings is prescribed by rules under CRR, what training will be offered to help equip Chairs to challenge and amend these behaviours when they arise? ADNSF taking this question and that of Victoria Inyang-Talbot, Liverpool North together, ADNSF would support the introduction of training and learning.</i></p> <p><i>Michael Swinson, Liverpool South: Ideally this should be reviewed and revised annually after APCM. ADNSF agreed and advised that the recommendation would be for this to be reviewed annually at the first PCC after the APCM. It may provide greater clarity if the paper is changed to read "after <u>each</u> APCM" rather than "after <u>the</u> APCM".</i></p>	

	<p><i>Derek Watmough, Liverpool Cathedral: With no sanction and it being voluntary, will there be any confidence in the Code being upheld? ADNSF agreed there is no sanction and no authority to impose a sanction; it is limited to the moral expectation to uphold the Code once agreed by the PCC etc. If it is believed a legal sanction needs to be introduced, Members should speak to General Synod Members.</i></p> <p><i>Victoria Inyang-Talbot, Liverpool North: There is no training for PCC and it would be useful if this was offered by the Diocese for all PCC members or considering standing for PCC.</i></p> <p><i>The Chair added that <a href="#">CPAS</a> provided quality training for PCCs.</i></p> <p><b>ADNSF moved the Motion with that this Synod: i) Adopts the PCC Code of Conduct with the change of "after each APCM"; ii) Asks all PCCs to discuss the Code of Conduct in their first substantive PCC meeting after their APCM.</b></p> <p><b><i>The Motion was carried.</i></b></p>	
<b>DS22/22</b>	<p><b>Election</b></p> <p>A casual vacancy having arisen in within House of Clergy to Bishop's Council from the Archdeaconry of Knowsley and Sefton. One valid nomination and Rev Canon Anne Taylor (Sefton North) was elected unopposed.</p>	
<b>Synod breaks and reconvenes at 119hrs</b>		
<b>SESSION II: CHAIR – Debra Walker, Chair of the House of Laity</b>		
<b>DS22/23</b>	<p><b>Annual Report &amp; Accounts for 2021 and Budget for 2023</b></p> <p>Canon Maggie Swinson (MS) Chair of DBF introduced the item referring Members to the supporting papers circulated in advance. MS gave an overview of the year placing the finances in context of local and national events and guided Members through the PPT presentation capturing the detail of the current position. With apologies to Synod that the accounts are not yet finalised, when ready will report to the end of current triennium (2021). In brief the Management Accounts show -£27000 worse than budget. Mike Eastwood, Diocesan Secretary, presented the 2023 Budget and set this in the context of ability to deliver mission and fulfil our missional aims. Again, Members were guided through the papers aided with a PPT presentation (included here for reference and as a separate attachment.)</p> <p></p> <p>Synod finance 2022 ppt v2.pptx</p> <p><b><i>MS moved the Motion: That this Synod (i) takes note of the update on the progress of the 2021 Report &amp; Accounts: (ii) authorises the Finance Committee to approve the detail of the 2021 Report &amp; Accounts on behalf of Synod; (iii) notes the financial performance for 2022 (iv) approves the 2023 budget.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Motion carried unanimously</i></b></p>	
<b>DS22/24</b>	<p><b>Diocesan Board of Finance Annual General Meeting 2022</b></p> <p><i>(Synod temporarily suspended and re-convened as the Diocesan Board of Finance with Canon Maggie Swinson in the Chair. The DBF AGM was held and the Minutes recorded separately.)</i></p>	
<b>DS22/25</b>	<p><b>Questions under Standing Order 68 – none raised</b></p>	
<b>DS22/26</b>	<p>The meeting <b>closed with prayer and blessing</b> by the Bishop of Warrington.</p>	