



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

DS(17)M1

**DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDBURY AND IPSWICH
DIOCESAN SYNOD**

Minutes of a meeting of the Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 10 March 2017 in St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Present:

House of Bishops:	The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich The Bishop of Dunwich	
Archdeacons:	The Archdeacon of Sudbury The Archdeacon of Suffolk	
House of Clergy:	42 Members of the House	(18 apologies)
House of Laity:	59 Members of the House	(22 apologies)
Ex-officio:	15 Ex-officio Members	

In Attendance:

The Diocesan Registrar, the Diocesan Secretary and 5 members of staff were in attendance.

Item No. Subject and Description

OPENING WORSHIP – MORNING PRAYER LED BY BOSMERE DEANERY

The Clergy Vice President was in the Chair.

17.01 EUCHARIST (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)

The meeting commenced with 'Dwelling in the Word'.

Bishop Martin welcomed Anna Hughes as Diocesan Secretary. There followed a dialogue between Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike reflecting on their walk from Dunwich to the Cathedral. A video of their conversation can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u25pubt82xE>. They covered three areas, what had they learned about...

Suffolk: in walking we saw things that we don't normally see, we encountered passionate innovative people, experienced wonderful hospitality, and found that many people didn't advertise their creativity.

Church: meeting many people who shared a sense of vocation and passion about work and were looking to share it with other people, and a sense of working for common good. The question that this prompted was how do we connect with those who search for the God of love? There are many opportunities to share. Congregations; some are flourishing and some struggling. Often the flourishing ones did so because one or two people enabled it to happen. They noticed the same qualities in churches as in businesses. So how do we support this creativity and passion and enable this to happen?

What learning about one another? Bishop Martin on Bishop Mike. It was a powerful experience doing it as a pair, which facilitated engagement with places visited. The experience facilitated commitment to and an understanding of one another. Bishop Mike speaks with a theological fluency and perception of God at work in our lives. This is on the surface and he speaks about it openly and readily.

Bishop Mike on Bishop Martin. He is a man of spontaneity, with a deep agricultural knowledge, who has a passion and frustration with what is blocking the people of God engaging with mission of God.

The lay president of synod was in the chair and welcomed new members, thanked departing members.

17.02 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2016, DS(16)M3 were agreed with factual amendments:

16.24.01 should read it was the 100th not 110th service.

16.27 – Deanery Synod Numbers

The following motion was proposed by the clergy vice-president and unanimously agreed:

That the existing formula for the calculation of numbers of parochial representatives of the laity to be elected to deanery synods, as first adopted by diocesan synod in November 2010 (below) shall continue to apply until a resolution to the contrary.

Number on Electoral Roll	No of Lay Representatives
1 – 25	1
26 – 100	2
101 – 200	3
201 – 300	4
301 – 400	5
401 – 500	6

17.03 MATTERS ARISING

17.03.01

Mr David Lamming, (Sudbury Deanery) raised an issue about:

Minute 16.25 – Update on Transformation Change in the Diocesan Office

References made to the terms of reference and reporting for each of the committees within the revised governance structure are currently under consideration/review by the Governance Committee; notably the arrangements for the "New DBF Management Board" (as set out in paper BC(16)P75 as presented to the BC/DBF meeting on 13 May 2016: see BC(16)M4, minute 16.75) and the "Governance Committee" (as per minute 16.R8 of BC(16)M7).

Revised proposals will be reported to the Bishop's Council/DBF on 27 April 2017.

Mr Lamming (Sudbury) reported that the Minute was accurate in what was said but selective and inaccurate to what it referred to in practice.

Minute 16.31.02 – Food Waste

Mr David Lamming (Sudbury) reported that the motion has now joined the bottom of the queue of diocesan synod motions awaiting consideration by General Synod. It will be for the Business Committee to determine at what group of sessions it will be included in the agenda, dependant in part on other business and the time available.

17.04 REPORTS FROM GENERAL SYNOD

To note that the November session of the General Synod was reserved for contingency and not required.

The Revd Canon J Alderton Ford reported on behalf of the members of General Synod reported on the February 2017 session and a report on the progress of shared conversations in the diocese. The report of the February 2017 General Synod is available to view and download from <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/synods-committees/general-synod>.

17.05 QUESTIONS

There were none.

17.06 THY KINGDOM COME

A video of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York inviting people to join a wave of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost was shown (available at: <HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/205922180>), and a children's choir sang songs from the Lord's Prayer project.

Canon Tony Allwood reported that a booklet about the Bishops' Pilgrimage had been published and was available from the Diocesan Office in return for a donation to the Kagera Fund.

17.07 REPORTS FROM BISHOP'S COUNCIL

17.07.01 Minutes of the residential meeting held on 1-2 November 2016

Minutes BC(16)M7 were received.

17.07.02 Un-adopted minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017

Minutes BC(17)M1 were received.

17.08 DIOCESAN BUDGET AND CENTENARY SHARE

Archdeacon Ian, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, expressed thanks to the new finance team at the diocesan office. He noted that the numbers for 2016 were unaudited. There were significant improvements and he was cautiously optimistic about direction of travel, including moving to a three-year plan. On website.

He noted that there had been lower income than expected and higher expenditure, this was due to the impact of restructuring costs. Even so there had been a £324,000 reduction in costs. The figure of £8.4m expenditure was agreed by Synod and would not be exceeded.

The DBF would be planning for surplus, predicted on paying the Centenary Share and continuing to keep costs down. This represented is a massive improvement on previous years.

17.09 UPDATE ON DIOCESAN VISION AND STRATEGY

Bishop Martin reported that the work from the last synod would be available as a summary paper and had helped shaped the future work on mission and ministry. There were some quick wins:

- The Diocesan Youth Officer was about to be advertised.
- Work on Church building insurance was continuing
- The sharing of good news would continue to be done at synod and via e news and the pit stops.
- A Bishop's Ministry Officer had been appointed to develop support and a learning environment amongst all ministers.

17.10 NOTICES

17.10.01 2nd annual Centenary Fund Concert 7 October 2017

Canon Michael Wilde reported on the Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra event to be held at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds.

He also reported on the recent General Synod report on Lay leadership, "Setting God's People Free". He was hoping to get a speaker who would attend two meetings one for laity and one for clergy.

17.10.02 Suffolk Show

Archdeacon Ian Morgan, Chairman of the project team, reported on plans for the Church stand at the 2017 Suffolk Show. This would be on the theme of "Y-Church?" and be situated in the regular location on Flower Show Avenue next to the catering area.

Standing orders were suspended

17.10.03 Parish Giving Scheme

The Revd Canon Hedger reported that the Parish Giving Scheme (a centralised collection of donations and Gift Aid) would be launched in January 2018. Further information would be forthcoming throughout 2017.

17.10.04 Parochial Fees

The Revd Canon Hedger reported that based on good practice in the Lincoln diocese changes would be made to the collection of funeral fees from 1 April 2017. In future, all funeral fees (including PCC fees and local payments) would be collected by the DBF, with the local element remitted swiftly to the PCC.

17.11 ELEVENSES AND CAFÉ CHURCH

Capt. Andrew Payne CA Haverhill Benefice Missioner reported on mission projects in Haverhill. They all started with prayer and exploration of what needed to do. He highlighted two projects, Café Church was a response to the need to reach older people who visited the town on a Friday. They had started a café church, with a coffee morning and then at 12 noon came together for a 25-minute service. Many of those who attend have attended church in the past.

They used a simple structure involving interactivity, videos and brief sermons.

Eleveses was an activity on Sunday for children, based on messy church. Baptism families were invited to attend as a taster prior to baptism. From a monthly service, it had now become a weekly service with a core group of 12 children. He encouraged people to be realistic about where they were, listen to God and then try things out.

17.12 GOOD NEWS WEEKEND

The Revd Julia Lall, Priest in Charge of the South Hartismere, reported good news week end with Bishop Mike. The week end happened in December which was a good time to share good news, using the Christmas events. There were four aims for the weekend

1. To connect with wider community
2. Reconnect with those who had drifted away with specific invitations to people
3. To pray with people, to facilitate this people were given prayer cards to take away and hang prayers on special trees in the churches.
4. To taste and see and explore doing things differently. This involved using talents of people throughout the benefice and gave opportunity for different events.

Main focus of the week end was 'mega messy church'. An altar frontal was made using leaves from each child.

The lessons learned were that it started with prayer, there had to be focus, detailed planning, everything needed relentless publicity, it needed a good team, use was made of the diocesan resources, and it required a good budget. Finally, she encouraged anyone who was considering a good news weekend to enjoy it.

Standing orders reinstated

17.13 EUCHARIST (MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT)

The meeting concluded with the breaking of bread.

Signed:

[Chairman]

Date: _____