



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

DS(17)M2

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

Minutes of a meeting of the Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 10 June 2017 in the St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich.

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:	38 Members of the House	(22 apologies)
House of Laity:	60 Members of the House	(14 apologies)
Ex-officio:	13 Ex-officio Members	

In Attendance:

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

Item No.

Subject and Description

**17.14 OPENING WORSHIP – MORNING PRAYER LED BY RICHARD HUBBARD,
MUSIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, ST EDMUNDBURY CATHEDRAL AND
THE IN:HARMONY ENSEMBLE**

The Lay Vice President of Synod was in the Chair.

17.15 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Available to view at: <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/synods-committees/diocesan-synod>

Bishop Martin welcomed new members, and thanked departing members.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal raised over £50,000 for Diocese of Kagera, towards food aid and farming methods throughout the diocese which is suffering from drought and an earthquake. He thanked the Kagera Link Co-ordinators for their hard work and vision. What made it possible?

1. It was for a purpose that we understood and believed in, and our riches are great compared with Kagera.
2. It had been well planned by a small group of people, (the few enabling the many).
3. We were captivated by a fun and creative approach.
4. It had been blessed by prayer.

In the two years, he had been serving the diocese tough decisions had been made, with cuts in projects and staff and now we needed to raise our giving. As we became freer from funding shackles we will become freer to serve Christ, using the gifts God has given us. He drew attention to the 'Emmanuel Project', designed by Helen Matter and which was being used in many schools. He stressed the importance of using the gift of prayer which would make us adventurous, and inspired to have a go for the gospel.

17.16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2017 (DS(17)M1) were agreed and signed.

17.17 MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

Standing orders were suspended

17.18 GROWING IN GOD WORKSHOPS

Members attended each of four seminars showcasing innovative work under the theme of Growing in God.

17.18.01 Growing in number – Easter Art Trail, Lavenham

Lynda Sebbage explained how developing an art trail in Lavenham had involved children and members of the community in the Easter message. Starting in the autumn she had approached the local school and shops to discuss the possibility of the project, as a result a partnership was established which resulted in 67 pieces of art being displayed throughout the town and then in the church. Some of the artwork was incorporated into the Easter liturgies, with more people attending than usual. Some of the children had been involved in the worship. Looking to the future it was hoped to build on this aspect of community involvement in developing worship.

17.18.02 Growing Younger – Sainsbury's Warren Heath, Ipswich

The Revd Trevor Golding, Ipswich St Augustine, explained how he had developed a chaplaincy at Sainsbury's store on Warren Heath. Through careful building of trust, he had been able to nurture relationships with staff that had resulted in pastoral encounters. Trevor made it clear that he had never asked nor accepted anything from the store, for example the offer of scones for a church cream tea, as he wanted to be clear that he and the church were there to serve. He had also been asked by the store manager to provide some activities for Christmas and so had used the parish puppet group to communicate the Christmas message. The use of the puppets, the church mascot Harry the Hippo and the carol singing had engaged many people and as a result he had been asked to prepare something for the following Easter.

17.18.03 Growing in depth – living vocations, North Samford Benefice

The Revd Annette Shannon explained how she had used the diocesan resource 'Living Vocation' to encourage members of her churches to consider their vocation, both in the church and the world. The course had been run twice and involved 11 people. As the groups established, so trust had been built creating a safe environment to explore faith and calling so the participants had discovered that there were things that they could do both in the church, using their gifts and also in the wider community. As a result, new people were involved in planning and leading worship, others had felt called to be elders, or involved in other ministries in the church.

17.18.04 Growing in influence Walton Parish Nursing

Lorna Bellamy, a Parish Nurse explained that across Suffolk there were five parish nurses and also other professionals who worked in geographical areas, supported by local churches. The aim of Parish Nursing was to work in partnership with other health professionals and treat the whole person. People could either self-refer or be referred by a health professional.

Key messages emerging from all four projects were:

Be bold

Take time to develop relationships and build trust

Have confidence in the message

The Clergy Vice-President was in the Chair.

Standing orders were reinstated.

Bishop Martin introduced the Revd Jeanette Gosney, Bishops' Ministry Officer, who would focus on the support and wellbeing of the clergy. The post was funded by Church Commissioners instead of a Bishop's Chaplain.

17.19 REPORTS FROM BISHOP'S COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 2017 (BC(17)M2) were noted.

17.20 QUESTIONS

There were none.

17.21 PLANS FOR 2018

The Archdeacon of Suffolk introduced Gary Peverley as Finance Director and thanked him for his work since joining the DBF staff. He then had a question and answer session with the Diocesan Secretary.

Where have we come from over the past four months? The main task has been closing the 2016 accounts which show financial improvement, but at a cost. There had been a turnaround process, and now a recovery from turnaround. To sustain the change was a longer-term project and it was important to work towards a break-even budget. Because of the turnover of staff in the Finance Team there had been a loss of corporate knowledge and as knowledge builds and with the new financial software the picture would improve.

What are we aiming at? The aim was to work towards a budget deficit of less than £200,000 and towards break even in 2018. The summary of performance (from Ensors the auditors) which had stripped out exceptional and unusual items showed both progress made and the task ahead. 2017 was about rebuilding the team, part of the task was to build trust so that by the end of the year we have a high performing team. The cutbacks meant that we would have to continually reassess priorities.

It was noted that due to exceptional restructuring costs incurred after the budget was agreed there had been an overspend of £281,000. This had been covered by additional income from the Archbishops' Council.

Questions

Mr Christopher Spicer (Ixworth) asked the Diocesan Secretary to clarify £750,000 loss on investments. Mrs Hughes explained that what was shown was the underlying operational position, and in 2016 the DBF had made a surplus of £750,000 on investments.

She asked that if people had detailed financial questions they should be given to the deanery organisers and they would be answered at the July meeting of the deanery organisers.

Mr Guy MacGregor (Hoxne) asked whether the underlying financial controls in the past and the software had been up to the job. Mrs Hughes replied that the fact the software was out of date did not mean that financial controls were inadequate, rather that it required a lot of manual intervention and it was difficult to interrogate the data. The position would be resolved with the new software. She also noted the loss of 'corporate memory' which could slow things down.

The Revd Robin Spittle (Colneys) welcomed the good work that had been done in getting the deficit down, but why was no more effort being put in reducing the deficit. Mrs Hughes replied that these were the latest positions, and work continues.

Mr David Lamming (General Synod and Sudbury) asked whether the overspend should be approved by synod. The Registrar ruled that it was stating the reality of what had happened and therefore didn't need the synod's agreement.

The Archdeacon then addressed the budget motion which was to approve a level of income and a level of expenditure. He stated that it was the intention in future to present a full budget for the June synod to allow synod to approve the result - but that was not possible today for 2018. This would be the last time that it was done this way.

Questions

Mr Guy MacGregor (Hoxne) asked had the audit been completed? Yes.

The DBF Chairman moved:

"This Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend a sum not exceeding £8,283,000 in the year 2018, in order to complete the work in preparing the 2018 budget."

Voting:
For 93
Against 0
Abstained 3

17.22 CENTENARY SHARE FOR 2018

The Chair of the DBF explained that there had been a delay in progressing work on changes to the Centenary Share allocation system and therefore the allocation would be under the current formula. A new working party would look at further minor changes to the system to be implemented for 2019.

Questions

Prof Lawrence Smith (Stowmarket) welcomed the low increase of 1.2% and asked if this was attributable to increases in stipends? The increase was due to the diocese working towards the regional benchmark for stipends and a reduction in grants from the Archbishops' Council.

The DBF Chairman moved that:

"This Synod approves that the net sum of £7,100,000 be provided to the Diocesan Board of Finance through the allocation of Share in the year 2018 to meet the budgeted expenditure, and that this sum is apportioned according to the Centenary Share allocation system."

Voting:
For 101
Against 0
Abstain 3

The Chair of the DBF thanked all those who gave generously towards the work of the church. He was thanked for his clear presentation by the Chair thanked Ad of s for his presentation by the Revd Canon Alderton Ford.

Standing Orders were suspended

17.23 INHARMONY

Bishop Martin introduced Mr Richard Hubbard, Music Development Director, St Edmundsbury Cathedral's project to enrich music in worship in the churches throughout the diocese.

Mr Hubbard, explained that the project was funded by the St Edmund Foundation and was looking at ways of enhancing music across the diocese. The first stage had been a survey of all the churches. A 94% response rate had been achieved. In addition to the survey there had been 'mystery worshipper' visits to many churches. He then outlines the preliminary results.

Only 9 churches had more than 100 worshippers, the majority were less than 25.

- 28 % churches had no one under 60
- 61% churches had no one under 18
- 32% churches had a choir singing at services.
- 11 choirs had children
- Only 2% of churches had choirs with children
- 82% organs were regularly maintained
- 46% of organists were not church members

- 75% of organists are volunteers
- 36% of organists are over 70
- 3% are under 30
- 17% of churches have a music grp
- 45% of churches sing only hymns
- 46% would like to use other styles but a lack of musicians, knowing a wider repertoire or resistance to change hampered this
- 272 churches said they would welcome someone coming to help lead alternative worship

The full report will be available later.

Threats

- Dimensioning numbers and increasing age of congregations linked with, unchurched generations
- Resistance to change
- Resistance to mission, and a fear that changed worship will affect comfort zones.

Opportunities

- Supporting managed change, because change has been managed badly. New music does not mean abandoning the old. The church needs wide a breadth of musical styles and quality worship
- Deanery events e.g. singing day to explore alternative styles,
- Music as mission – churches that don't have resources to do music in style that attracts, could use other groups to resource special events
- Working with schools and providing diocesan wide events for schools
- A diocesan orchestra

Questions

The Revd Max Osborne (Mildenhall) thanked Mr Hubbard for his presentation and asked whether there were ways of encouraging churches that were nervous of contemporary worship styles yet keen to develop such worship. Yes, it was important to encourage all styles, and he hoped to develop workshops using his students from London School of Theology.

17.24 NOTICES

17.24.01 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 in aid of the Centenary Fund.

17.24.02 Setting God's People Free (Lay leadership in the Church)

Canon Michael Wilde advertised the two events at the St Nicholas Centre for the House of Laity on Monday 3 July at 7.30 pm and House of Clergy on 4 July at 10.30. The 'Setting God's People Free' was a very important report and the sessions would be facilitated by Matthew Frost chair of task group that had written the report. Bishop Martin said that the report was very important, for too long the focus had been on clergy rather than supporting all lay discipleship. The report had action steps that General Synod was committed to. The diocese would be one of the dioceses piloting the programme.

17.24.03 Church Insurance

Mrs Anna Hughes, said that the intention had been to have the new insurance package in place by 1 April 2017. However, there was still more work to do in order that it was right first time. She and colleagues were in discussion with a broker and also the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. A report would be made in due course to the Finance and Investment Committee, DBF and also the Deanery Organisers. She noted that in 2016 it had been estimated that PCCs across the diocese paid premiums to the value of around £720,000 and that claims amounted to around £100,000, primarily to do with lead theft. In the meantime, if renewal was due then the usual good practice should be followed of obtaining two quotes, assess the appropriate level of cover, increase excesses and avoid being tied into long deals.

17.24.04 Suffolk Show 2017

Archdeacon Ian, Chair of Project Board, introduced the highlights of the Church Stand at the Suffolk Show, including an example of the vox-pops. He thanked all who had taken part, and especially Mr Eric Falla. It was essential that the Church of England was present at the county show. As in previous years, significant conversations had taken place.

Mr Gavin Stone, Head of Transformation, introduced a new interactive events map which had been introduced at the Show and encouraged everyone to populate the map with activities and events that were happening in their parishes. Events should be added to the map via <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/event-submission>

The meeting concluded with prayer

Signed:

[Chairman]

Date:
