



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich**

**DS(18)M2**

**DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDBURY AND IPSWICH**

**DIOCESAN SYNOD**

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 9 June 2018 at St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich.

**Present:**

|                   |   |                |
|-------------------|---|----------------|
| House of Bishops: | The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich<br>The Bishop of Dunwich |                |
| Archdeacons:      | The Archdeacon of Suffolk   |                |
| House of Clergy:  | 33 Members of the House   | (15 apologies) |
| House of Laity:   | 42 Members of the House   | (19 apologies) |
| Ex-officio:       | 10 Ex-officio Members   | (4 apologies)  |

**In Attendance:**

The Acting Diocesan Registrar, the Diocesan Secretary and 10 members of staff.

**Item No. Subject and Description**

**18.16 MINISTRY OF THE WORD LED BY THE RIGHT REVD DR MIKE HARRISON**

The Lay Vice President of Synod was in the Chair.

**18.17 JOINT PRESIDENTIAL AND DBF CHAIR ADDRESS**

Bishop Martin welcomed Mark Pendlington as the newly elected Chair of the DBF. The main items to note were:

- Bishop Martin congratulated those in the county who had received an award as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours and would be writing to them.
- This Synod is the last Synod of the current triennium and therefore Bishop Martin thanked everyone for their work and commitment to Synod.
- Particular thanks were given to the two Vice-Presidents of Synod, Canon Michael Wilde and Revd Jonathan Ford, both whom are standing down from their roles.
- The Right Revd Joe Hawes, new Dean of the Cathedral will be installed on 14 July.

A dialogue between Bishop Martin and Mark Pendlington then took place. The full discussion is available to view or download in full at: <https://youtu.be/McxrkH3ipSU>

## **18.18 ACCELERATING OUR GROWTH**

Since 2013, Church Commissioners have made available some strategic development funds for dioceses, focused on mission, with the need to have convincing prospects for increasing growth and a need to fit with overall strategic objectives. The diocese submitted an application at the end of April. This was for £5m over 6 years.

Should the bid be successful in phase 1 (informed by end of June), a lot more work is required for phase 2 and if that is successful, the funding could be with the diocese by early 2019. There are two dimensions to the application, urban (Ipswich deanery) and rural.

Members broke into ten discussion groups, and were asked to comment on two questions around accelerating growth:

- What would work in your context?
- What other ideas do you have for accelerating growth in your contexts?

A summary of comments made the ten discussion groups are attached with the minutes at appendix 1. These will be utilised to help shape the application going into phase 2 should phase 1 be successful.

## **18.19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2018, DS(18)M1 were agreed and signed.

## **18.20 REPORTS FROM BISHOP'S COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2018 BC(18)M2 were noted.

## **18.21 MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

There were no matters arising.

## **18.22 DIOCESAN SECRETARY APPROVED AS SECRETARY TO THE DIOCESAN SYNOD**

As set out in paper DS(18)P22, it is necessary to align the role of the Diocesan Secretary with her role as Secretary to the Diocesan Synod.

Mr David Lamming (Sudbury Deanery and General Synod) moved that:

"This Synod, pursuant to rule 34(1)(b) of the Church Representation Rules and Standing Order 9 of the Synod's Standing Orders, appoint the Diocesan Secretary, Mrs Anna Hughes, to be the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod."

The motion was seconded by Revd Jonathan Ford.

Voting was carried out by a show of hands and passed unanimously.

## **18.23 STANDING ORDERS REVIEW**

With reference to paper DS(18)P23, in July 2017 it was agreed by Bishop's Council that the current Standing Orders were no longer fit for purpose and a small task force was appointed to review all 120 Orders.

A full revised set of the Standing Orders will come to October's Synod for approval, however, in preparation for a new triennium, Synod were asked to approve and adopt Standing Order 72, the composition of Bishop's Council and the Standing Committee.

The Right Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich diocese to move that:

"This Synod approves and adopts the amendment of SO72 in accordance with paper DS(18)P23."

The motion was seconded by The Right Revd Dr Mike Harrison.

Voting was carried out by a show of handed and all agreed with one abstention.

**ACTION: Diocesan Secretary to table the approval and adoption of the full set of Standing Orders at October's Synod.**

The Clergy Vice-President was in the Chair.

**Standing Orders were suspended.**

## **18.24 DBE ANNUAL REPORT**

With reference to her report, DS(18)P24, Jane Sheat, Diocesan Director of Education (DDE), provided a review of the DBE and an update on the Diocesan MAT for the year 2017.

Highlights were:

- The Emmanuel project (equipping teachers to teach Christianity), launched in June.
- Headteachers wellbeing day in July.
- The MAT continues to grow and now has 16 schools within it.
- Annual Schools Leaders Conference – aim to equip, learn together, and unpack the vision for education.
- There are many challenges including resources and budgets for which the DBE works creatively to resolve.

Questions:

Mr Roger Colthorpe (Bosmere) asked what percentage of pupils go to church schools? In response, Jane Sheat believes that about 19% of Suffolk pupils attend church schools, which is a massive opportunity to be engaged with young people. Jane subsequently confirmed that 15% of all pupils and 23% of primary pupils in Suffolk attend church schools.

Mr Robert Andrewes (Waveney & Blyth) asked what, if any, assistance or guidance can

be given to church members who are governors of Local Authority schools, especially those governors who are given responsibility for RE? Jane Sheat responded that the Diocesan education team delivers a number of governor training sessions throughout the year, with a particular focus on church schools and hold training events with regards to RE and collective worship which is entirely appropriate for community schools.

The Right Revd Dr Mike Harrison (Suffragan Bishop), asked Jane Sheat what brought her most joy and her biggest challenge of 2017. In response, Jane said that her biggest joy is to see children flourishing not just academically but also spiritually and when she sees children leading worship and engaging with God. In the MAT, the greatest joy is the extent of collaboration between schools supporting each other. Her biggest challenge is around schools' budgets, teacher recruitment and retention and school governance.

Mr David Lamming (Sudbury deanery and General Synod) moved that:

"This synod receive the report, paper DS(18)P24".

The motion was seconded by Mr Michael Wilde (Thingoe) and agreed unanimously.

## **18.25 DAC ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr James Halsall, Secretary of DAC and Pastoral, provided a summary of paper DS(18)P25.

Highlights were:

- Over the course of the year, the DAC discussed 233 items of business, a 25% increase over the previous year.
- Following the adoption of the new Faculty Rules in 2016 the vast majority of repairs need the approval of the archdeacon rather than a full faculty.
- The two national lists (A and B) which determine what work can be carried out on a church with a faculty or with permission from the Archdeacon, are being reviewed by a working group. Members were urged to get in touch with James should they wish to engage with the review process.
- If parishes are engaging with a church buildings project, please liaise with the DAC at an early stage to seek views whether it requires faculty approval.

Questions:

Mr Stephen Hart (Saxmundham) asked whether there were any photographs that could be shared of new toilet/kitchen facilities being added to a church building. James Halsall responded that he would be more than happy to bring some images to a future synod but currently none are available due to the sometimes lengthy timescales of the projects being completed.

Mr David Lamming (Sudbury deanery and General Synod) moved that:

"This synod receive the report, paper DS(18)P25".

The motion was seconded by Mrs Penelope Bird (Woodbridge) and agreed unanimously.

## **18.28 THE TAYLOR REVIEW**

Last year, "The Taylor Review: Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals" was published, recommending that each diocese should have a Community Support Advisor to assist parishes making their church buildings more community usable. The review suggested that the plan should be piloted and this diocese has been chosen as one of the pilots (Greater Manchester is the other).

The area covered by the pilot is Suffolk, not the diocese. This means that it will include the deanery of Lothingland. As pilot, the diocese will receive funding by Historic England for a Support Officer and a Community Support Adviser, based in the office, managed and paid for by Historic England. Job Descriptions have been finalised and advertised.

There will be access to £500k fund (pa) for minor repairs which can be bid for on a first come first serve basis. The current proposal is a PCC can apply for one grant per year. Applications will be simple for a quick turnaround.

This is an exciting and important opportunity and the diocese is thrilled to be chosen as a pilot. Bishop Martin thanked James for his efforts and commitment to this area of work.

### **Standing Orders were reinstated.**

## **18.26 DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE 2019 BUDGET**

Bishop Martin introduced the item, reference paper DS(18)P26. He thanked Gary and the finance team for enabling the budget to come to June's synod and not in November. He also noted the budget is very similar to 2017's budget in terms of income and costs.

Gary Peverley, Finance Director summarised the paper. As in 2018, the aim is to achieve a balance budget in income and costs. The 2019 budget results an overall deficit of £73k including the DBE and a surplus of £9k if the DBE results excluded.

The three main areas of income were summarised, parish share, statutory fees and other income. Parish share is budgeted at £6,700k (85% of budgeted income), aiming to be realistic and trying to avoid big increases.

In respect of the final position for 2017, the financial statements have been completed but still to be approved by the trustees, due to take place on 21 June. In summary, income was £8,373k, expenditure was £8,436k, with a deficit of £63k (an operational deficit of £255k).

### **Questions:**

Revd Alan Forsdike (Ipswich) asked on behalf of SSMs, whether there has been any progress regarding paying fees to those with Permission to Officiate. Anna responded to say that this is something being worked on and will be reported back on in due course.

David Walters (Sudbury) asked if the figures are known for the budget, when will

parishes be given their draft parish share allocations? Gary answered that the parish share allocation is currently being worked on with plans to be circulated to deanery organisers in July.

The Right Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich diocese to move that:

“This Synod approves the 2019 budget in accordance with the budget paper, DS(18)P26.”

The motion was seconded by Mr Barry Vincent (Woodbridge). Voting was counted, 82 agreed, the motion was passed unanimously.

## **18.27 DEANERY PLANING**

Throughout 2017 and early 2018, two deaneries (Thingoe and Colneys) have piloted a new process for deanery planning. The change is assist deaneries to maintain a continuum rather than responsive process. The process was developed by these two deaneries and focusses on mission and growth, to enable us to use the resources we have better. Paper DS(18)P27 provides details.

The new process enables a “from the ground up” approach and allows to hear from parishes at the centre of the work. It requires structural change, the main one being the formation of Deanery Mission & Pastoral Committees. These will perform the duties of the Deanery Standing Committees in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

It was noted that the rules for deanery synods need to be reviewed to ensure they reflect accurately the Standing Orders review that has taken place. These will be brought back to Synod in due course.

Revd Mark Haworth (Thingoe) and Mr John Dangerfield (Colneys) provided a brief summary of how the planning process has been in the two pilot deaneries. Main aspects highlighted were:

- The benefice plans will be the building blocks of the process and will help to break the silos, will enable the opportunities to share good practice, to also share ideas across deanery boundaries.
- That it will be improve what deaneries already do in a more efficient way and with better effect.
- When PCCs themselves were given the opportunity to put forward their ideas instead of having ideas put on them, the difference was remarkable.
- Where gaps appear, the view taken was not to diminish enthusiasm but to encourage to do what is possible.

The Right Revd Dr Mike Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich to move that:

“This Synod adopts the model of deanery planning proposed in paper DS(18)P27.”  
The motion was seconded by Revd Robin Spittle (Colneys) and agreed, there was one abstention.

## **18.29 QUESTIONS**

No questions were received.

**Standing Orders were suspended.**

## **18.30 NOTICES**

### **18.30.1 PARISH GIVING SCHEME UPDATE**

Gary Peverley gave a brief summary of the current statistics. There are now 58 parishes who have joined the scheme with 55 donors.

The new Stewardship Manager, Lee Jukes has now started. A generic email address has been set up for PGS business. This is pgs@cofesuffolk.org

### **18.30.2 ELECTIONS TO BISHOP'S COUNCIL**

Anna Hughes thanked all those involved with the diocesan elections. The closing date for any elections to take place is Sunday 15 July. Once all results are received, the diocesan office will endeavour to work quickly to get elections for Bishop's Council completed in time for the Bishop's Council meeting on 18 September.

Anna urged members to think about whether they would like to stand for election for Bishop's Council, and, if appropriate, save the date of the first Bishop's Council of the new triennium, 18 September 2018.

### **18.30.3 SUFFOLK SHOW**

The Venerable Ian Morgan provided a brief summary of the Suffolk Show. The theme was "Connect" and a number of statistics were shown to see how well the diocese "connected" with visitors to the marquee. In summary:

- 2800 cups of teas and coffees were served.
- Connected with 935 children doing craft activities, with 200 faces painted.
- From 2,524 responses asking whether we connected with them, 82% replied yes.

The meeting concluded with the peace and the ministry of the sacrament led by Bishop Martin.

Signed:

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[Chairman]

Date:

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