



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

DS(19)M3

THE DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNSBURY AND IPSWICH

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 12 October 2019 at Trinity Park, Ipswich.

Present:

House of Bishops:	Bishop Mike Harrison	
Archdeacons:	Archdeacon David Jenkins (Sudbury) Archdeacon Rhiannon King (Ipswich)	
House of Clergy:	33 Members of the House	(27 apologies)
House of Laity:	46 Members of the House	(22 apologies)
Ex-officio:	11 Ex-officio Members	(4 apologies)

In Attendance:

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

Revd Sharon Potter, Chair of House of Clergy, in the Chair

WELCOME

The Revd Sharon Potter welcomed members and advised that the Synod Survey results (item 19.28) would now start the meeting.

19.28 SYNOD SURVEY RESULTS

Gavin Stone, Diocesan Director of Communications reported on the recent synod survey. 76 responses had been received and collated and will inform future planning. Gavin thanked members who had taken part and welcomed further feedback from members at any time.

19.26 WORSHIP

The worship was led by the Outward Looking Focus Group. Bishop Mike also gave a reflection on the life of Archdeacon Ian Morgan.

19.27 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Bishop Mike welcomed new members since the last Synod: Mr Justin Rabett (Clare deanery), Mrs Judith Tann (Hartismere deanery), the Revd Canon Charles Jenkin (Ipswich deanery), Mr John Rapley and Mrs Julie Rayner (Lavenham deanery) and the Hon Christina Darell-Brown (Loes deanery).

Bishop Mike reflected on the four themes that had been identified by Synod as their focus and priorities for this Triennium: understanding ourselves, telling our story, being outward focused and being political. All underpin the Growing in God element of "Increasing in

Depth". Bishop Mike gave a wide-angled view on each theme, reflecting on how to overcome the perception of the Church's intimidating front and the need to adapt to connect with our ever-changing world. He congratulated Synod on giving priority to such important issues.

The Revd David Everett, Mildenhall Deanery asked if the presidential address would be available for dissemination to parishes. Gavin Stone advised that the address would be available on the Diocesan website -

https://www.cofesuffolk.org/uploads/Bishop_Mike_Synod_Transcript.pdf

19.29 GROWING IN GOD – GROWING IN INFLUENCE

Revd Sharon Potter invited the four synod focus groups to provide an update.

Understanding ourselves and being clear about who we are

Ian Wigston cited Romans 12.2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" and highlighted the need for our churches to be more outward facing and welcoming.

Telling our story

Tom McKenny advised of the need for Jesus to be at the heart of all our communications, both internal and external, in order to transform people's lives and encourage others.

Be outward focussed

Revd Carol Mansell provided three recommendations from the group: having confidence and speaking naturally and confidently about faith; convening, being a Christian presence, and bringing people from the wider community together for a purpose; and co-working with others to listen, identify and respond to the physical, social and spiritual needs in our communities.

Be political

Revd Tony Redman highlighted why we need to be political, what we should be political about in our communities and how to be political.

Revd Sharon Potter asked Synod to consider and discuss two questions:

- What does the local church have to offer that will make a difference in people's lives?
- What is necessary for the local church to engage actively and confidently for the common good?

During the discussion, members were able to contribute comments to a sli.do platform. 'Community' was the most commonly used word in the responses and the sli.do results will be available on the Diocesan Synod webpage shortly.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and asked that any further feedback be provided to Gavin Stone.

19.30 GROWING IN GOD - GROWING IN DEPTH – “THIS TIME TOMORROW”

Revd Canon Dave Gardner, Director of Mission and Ministry introduced the Church of England booklet, “Setting God’s People Free for ...Monday to Saturday”. The national church is seeking a cultural shift from being Sunday focussed and the booklet offers seven ideas that will make a big difference to the way we worship, pray and support each other in our everyday faith. One of the practical ideas is “This Time Tomorrow” – interviewing someone in your congregation, asking where they will be this time tomorrow and offering to pray for them and especially for any challenges or opportunities.

Mr Bill Sokolis, assistant curate at Alde River benefice explained how a pilot for “This Time Tomorrow” is being used in the benefice.

19.31 GENERAL SYNOD REPORT (FROM JULY 2019)

Tony Allwood advised that the report for General Synod in July 2019 had been delayed and would be circulated with the minutes of this meeting. Members with any questions concerning General Synod should speak to the General Synod representatives.

Tony Allwood, Leonie Ryle, Diocesan Communications Manager and Gavin Stone updated on the digital mission challenge.

Tony Allwood had attended a digital workshop at General Synod which had highlighted the success of recent Church of England digital campaigns such as the Easter and Lent Pilgrim programmes and Thy Kingdom Come.

“A Church Near You” website which receives over 12 million page visits per year. It is important therefore that parishes maximise the benefits this website offers and ensure that its information is up to date. Tony is the Diocesan champion for this website and offered support to parishes and editors using the site.

Leonie Ryle spoke about the #Follow the Star campaign. Around 7.94 million people had been reached on social media last year, with more than 120k copies of the #Follow the Star booklet sold. Following this success, the same theme for Advent and Christmas will be used this year. The #Follow the Star campaign will drive social media traffic to A Church Near You website, so please ensure that details of Christmas services and events are complete and up-to-date. #Follow the Star resources are available on the Church of England website.

The Revd Andrew Dotchin (Colneys deanery) commented on the benefits of using A Church Near You website.

Gavin Stone provided an update on the Church of England Portal and plans for improving the diocesan website. The portal has been introduced to enable users to access a variety of information and systems in just one place e.g. Parish Returns Online and Online Faculty. Once the updated website goes live (planned for Easter 2020), content will be more easily accessible by role, there will be a better directory via an integrated Contact Management System (CMS is replacing myDiocese) and finding information about a church will be powered by A Church Near You.

Tony Allwood, Chair of House of Laity, in the Chair

19.32 BISHOP'S RECENT VISIT TO KAGERA

Revd Jutta Brueck gave a presentation on the recent ten day visit by Bishop Martin and herself to the Diocese of Kagera, Tanzania.

19.33 MOTION TO ADOPT REVISED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Tony Allwood introduced Karen Galloway, the new Safeguarding Manager and Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser for the Diocese.

Karen Galloway thanked deaneries and parishes, particularly Parish Safeguarding Officers, for their support of safeguarding, for raising awareness and attending training. Karen referred to Paper DS (19)P33 which recommended the adoption of the revised Training and Development Framework from the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team. The new framework has three levels: Basic Foundation and Leadership replacing levels C0-4.

Karen introduced Taiwo Ajayi, the new Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer who presented on the changes to safeguarding training as outlined in Paper DS (19)P33.

Stephen Hart (Saxmundham deanery) asked whether the changes meant that church leaders were required to re-do their training. Taiwo advised that training needs only to be done every three years.

Mary Hare (Woodbridge deanery) asked about Eventbrite. Taiwo advised that Eventbrite is an on-line facility for booking training places.

Mary Lewis (Hoxne deanery) had not been able to find safeguarding events on Eventbrite and also asked about the training for churchwardens. Taiwo advised that safeguarding events will be added to Eventbrite in due course and that churchwardens will need to complete Leadership Training. The website will be updated with these changes in due course.

David Lamming (General Synod Rep and Sudbury deanery) queried the terminology used in Paper DS(19)P33 with that of the motion.

Karen advised that the changes to terminology had been made by the Church of England which will come into effect from January 2020.

The Revd Canon Jonathan Alderton-Ford (Thingoe deanery) advised that the revised safeguarding training and development framework reflects the importance of providing a church environment that is as safe as possible and he complemented the safeguarding team on their work. The revision had been discussed at General Synod in July and he fully endorsed the changes outlined in the paper.

The Revd David Everett, (Mildenhall deanery) suggested clear definitions of the various job roles within churches to ensure that there is consistency of safeguarding training. Taiwo advised that details of the safeguarding training required for various job roles will be made available.

Rob Waugh (Ixworth deanery) asked whether PCC members need to complete both the Basic and Foundation levels. Karen advised that PCC members do need to complete both

modules as they cover different aspects of safeguarding. Parishes should encourage all members of their congregations to complete the Basic level of training.

Robert Andrewes (Waveney and Blyth deanery) highlighted confusion with the relationship between safeguarding training and DBS checks, and the amount of work for Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) as they are now required to carry out DBS checks for volunteers. Karen advised that DBS checks are required for all those working in a designated position of trust with adults and children who may be at risk. Currently PSOs appear to be dealing well with the new arrangements for DBS checks. Support is available from Sally Fitch, Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator and from Due Diligence Checking Ltd, the DBS online provider.

Jasmine Hobbs (Ixworth deanery) queried the number of DBS checks required. Karen advised that there is no limit to the number of DBS checks required. There is a legal requirement for a DBS check every five years or whenever an individual changes jobs or organisations.

The Revd Andrew Dotchin (Colneys deanery) commented on the importance of safeguarding and offering a safe place for all within our churches.

Bishop Mike moved that:

"This Synod adopt the revised Safeguarding Training and Development Practice Guidance and an updated plan for Diocesan Safeguarding Training as outlined in paper DS(19)P33".

The motion was unanimously agreed, carried by a show of hands.

19.34 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2019, DS(19)M2, were agreed as an accurate record and signed.

19.35 MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

Tony Allwood reminded members of their approval of the 2020 budget at June's Diocesan Synod. As per the Synod's Standing Orders, there is a need to formalise the approval of the budget, via two money motions. These money motions cover the maximum expenditure and the amount to be raised by Parish Share.

Formal approval wasn't sought in June because of unknowns such as the clergy pension scheme valuation. There are still unknowns but in order to be permitted to start to spend from 1 January 2020, these money motions are required at this meeting.

When and if there are significant changes to the budget, Synod's approval will be sought at the next meeting in March 2020.

19.35.1 *Item 19.23 (Diocesan Budget 2020), of the previous minutes, paper ref DS(19)M2*

Bishop Mike moved that:

"This synod authorise the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend a sum not exceeding £9,941,194 in the financial year beginning 1 January 2020 in accordance with paper DS(19)P23 approved at the June 2019 meeting of Synod".

The motion was counted. 78 for with 0 against and 3 abstentions.

Motion passed.

19.35.2 Bishop Mike moved that:

“The sum of £7,129,488 required from parishes to fund such expenditure be allocated to parishes in accordance with the current diocesan parish share allocation formula”.

The motion was counted. 82 for with 1 against and 0 abstentions.

Justin Rabett (Clare deanery) asked if there was a contingency in the budget for parishes unable to pay their parish share.

Gary Peverley, Finance Director advised that there was contingency in the budget.

Motion passed.

19.36 MINUTES OF THE BISHOP’S COUNCIL

The minutes of the Bishop's Council meeting held on 2 July 2019, BC(19)M3 were received.

The unadopted minutes of the Bishop’s Council meeting held on 12 September 2019, (BC(19)M4 were also received. Bishop Mike spoke to item 19.41 of those minutes regarding additional curates funding for 2020.

Bishop Mike advised that the Church of England is challenging Dioceses to increase vocations by 50% in order to maintain clergy numbers and address expected clergy retirements in the next ten years. The national church has offered to provide a proportion of the additional curates costs and dioceses have been encouraged to apply for funding in 2020 for additional curates. In this Diocese we have had a good response and have applied for funding for eight additional curates. We will know the outcome of our funding application by mid-October.

Bishop Mike moved that:

“This Synod endorse the principle discussed by the Bishop’s Council on 12 September 2019 to grasp the opportunity to increase the intake of curates in light of historic recruitment challenges and the number of forthcoming retirements”.

The motion was counted. 83 for with 0 against and 1 abstentions.

Motion passed.

19.37 QUESTIONS

David Lamming (General Synod and Sudbury Deanery) to ask the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod:

[Answers provided by the Director of Strategic Planning and Communications who oversees the collection of parish data]

Of the 443 parishes in the diocese:

- (i) how many had notified the secretary of the synod by 1 June 2019 of the number of names on the church electoral roll as at the date of their 2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting, as required by rule 4 of the Church Representation Rules and how many more have done so subsequently?

250 (56%) responses were received by the deadline, a further 116 (26%) subsequently.

(ii) what is the total number of names on the electoral rolls of the parishes in the diocese:

(a) as so notified to date?

16,955

(b) as certified to the Clerk of the General Synod pursuant to rule 36(3)?

16,955 (compared to 18644 in 2018, a 9% reduction) – comprised from the parish responses as shown in the table below:

SOURCE	NUMBER OF PARISHES
2019 paper form	223
2019 emailed copy of the form	45
2019 number provided in an email	98
Acquired from 2018 Annual Report	10
Number provided in 2018 return	62
Number provided in 2017 return	4
N/A – parish in closure process	1
TOTAL	443

David Lamming asked a supplementary question, asking the Diocesan Secretary:

Are steps being taken to ensure that this information is collected?

Reply from Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary:

Parishes are encouraged to submit information but we have neither the will nor the resources to enforce collection.

Members were asked to encourage parishes to send in this information.

19.38 NOTICES

19.38.1 2020 CATHEDRAL CELEBRATIONS

Dean Joe outlined the key events taking place next year in the Cathedral to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the Abbey of St Edmund:

- Benedictine Celebration on 23-24 May
- St Edmund Day festival on 20-22 November
- Celebrating parishes' historical links with the Abbey
- Bellingring across the Diocese
- Lighting of parish torches
- Visit by Archbishop Justin.

Tony Allwood asked members for permission to extend this meeting by up to ten minutes, which was approved.

19.38.2 REVISIONS TO THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES

James Hall advised that revision to the Church Representation Rules will come into effect on 1 January 2020. Clergy, churchwardens and parish secretaries will need to be aware of the changes and links will be provided in the Diocesan e-news and on the Diocesan website. Further guidance will be available from Church House in the near future. In summary the key changes are:

- annual parochial church meetings must be held between 1 January and 31 May
- there is no requirement for a set number of PCC meetings per year
- PCC business can be done by correspondence and email
- benefices can have a joint council rather than individual PCCs.

19.38.3 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT (PROMULGATION) OF AMENDING CANON NO. 39

James Hall advised that Canon No 39 had been amended by General Synod and Canon No 39 was promulgated. A key amendment is that morning prayer, evening prayer and Holy Communion are now required in at least one church in each benefice on a Sunday rather than in each parish church. Further details will be available online or available by contacting James.

19.38.4 ANTI-SLAVERY DAY (18 OCTOBER)

Revd Carol Mansell highlighted the Anti-slavery exhibitions taking place on Friday 18 October at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds and University of Suffolk, Ipswich. The exhibitions aim to spread awareness about all who are trafficked into slavery in different ways in our county, in our country and throughout the world.

19.38.5 #YOUMADEITHAPPEN

Gavin Stone highlighted that the Diocese is celebrating the fantastic work of volunteers, who in service to God, the Church in Suffolk and their communities, make such a difference. The Diocese has joined with other charities throughout the country and #YouMadeItHappen to highlight the variety of support provided.

Bishop Mike closed the meeting with a blessing at 1.06pm.

**The next meeting of the Diocesan Synod will be held at
9.30am, on 14 March 2020, venue to be confirmed.**