

Diocesan Synod
19th March 2011

DS120/07

Report of Proceedings 119th Session of Diocesan Synod: Saturday, 20th November 2010

Worship The Bishop welcomed members to Salford City Academy and offered thanks to the staff at the school for allowing Synod use of its facilities.

He invited Susie Mapledoram, Diocesan Youth Officer, to introduce Alice Gasson, Tom Smith and Paul Smith from Didsbury, St James with Emmanuel to lead worship.

DS119/01 **Presidential Address**

The Right Revd Nigel McCulloch gave his Presidential Address [available on the Diocesan Website: www.manchester.anglican.org]

The Bishop reminded members that elections for General Synod had recently been held and Manchester had several new representatives as a result. He introduced those who had been re-elected as:

The Venerable Cherry Vann
The Venerable Dr John Applegate
Revd Canon Simon Killwick
The Worshipful Canon Geoffrey Tattersall QC
Dr Peter Capon
Mrs Christine Sandiford

Newly elected members were:

Revd Canon Sarah Bullock
Revd Canon Andy Salmon
Revd Sharon Jones
Mr John Barber
Mr Mike Heppleston
Mr James Townsend

Synod congratulated the Diocesan representatives on General Synod.

The Bishop introduced Mr Jez Robinson, Diocesan Accountant, who had been appointed earlier in the year. Jez had been unable to attend Synod in June he had been sitting an exam on the same day.

The Bishop also explained that he wanted to take the opportunity to express public appreciation to Archdeacon Cherry Vann for the role that she had been undertaking as Acting Diocesan Secretary since the departure of John Beck in September.

He explained that John's original wish was to have worked out his three months notice until the end of December but it seemed that we required some immediate work to be done on the current governance and structures at Church House, which provided outstandingly able resourcing and guidance for the parishes of this diocese, in order to make its delivery to the diocese even more effective.



He explained that accordingly he encouraged John Beck's paid vacation of office from September, to enable ease of consultation and the beginning of the process of appointing a new Diocesan Secretary to take office, hopefully, around Easter 2011.

He advised Synod that earlier this week details about that process were discussed at a helpful residential conference attended by the Bishop's Staff Team, including the Heads of Departments at Church House and also the Chairs of the Houses of Clergy and Laity and of the Diocesan Board of Finance. He explained that by the time the new Diocesan Secretary took office there would have been no extra financial cost to the Diocese.

The Bishop also informed Synod that under Section 3 of the Ecclesiastical Ages Measure, the Archbishop of York had granted him permission to remain in office for a further year following his 70th birthday. This would mean that the Bishop could continue his post until the end of January 2013, thus having served over ten years as Diocesan Bishop in Manchester. During his continuing Episcopal ministry he hoped to encourage the Church of England to remain the broad Church that it was meant to be. He asked for Synod's prayers over the next few years.

Members of Synod responded with applause.

**The 119th Session of Diocesan Synod was adjourned for a separate meeting
of the Board of Finance**

The Synod reconvened

DS119/02 Budget 2011

Canon Alan Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Finance moved that:

"The Diocesan Budget for 2011 as set out in [DS119/02] in the sum of £13,795,000 which requires £8,181,000 to be raised through Parish Share, be adopted with authority given to the Board of Finance to vary the final allocation as circumstances may require."

The motion was carried with 1 vote against and no abstentions.

DS119/03 Apportionment of Parish Share 2011

Canon Alan Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Finance moved that:

"The Parish Share requirements for 2011 be apportioned among the deaneries on the basis of the table in hands of members."

The motion was carried unanimously.

DS119/04 Report of Proceedings of 118th Session of Diocesan Synod held Wednesday, 30th June 2010

The Chairman then proposed that:

"This Synod adopts the Report of Proceedings [DS119/04] and confirms that the Chairman can sign the copy preserved in the

Minute Book."

The motion was carried unanimously.

DS119/05 Questions Under Standing Order 69
The Revd Richard Hawkins, Oldham East Deanery, put forward the following question:

"What action is being taken by Church House, Manchester to respond to the Manchester City Green Action Plan?"

Mr Martin Miller, Director of the Church and Society Department, provided the following response:

Following Bishop's Council the Church and Society committee received the report on the Manchester City Green Action Plan. The Committee reviewed some of the tools which are now available to promote carbon reduction across the whole church. A number of initiatives have begun as a result of the Bishop's Council and Church and Society meetings. These seek to provide a comprehensive response to the issues; practical action at Church House, effective tools for church buildings and developing local and strategic partnerships for maximum impact.

- We have introduced paper recycling at Church House (for the first time) using a Manchester based environmental social enterprise.
- We have asked for reps from each department to form a working party to look at Church House issues such as power consumption, green supplier etc. It will encourage best practices such as making sure equipment is switched off rather than put on standby mode for example.
- This group will also look at how we minimise our overall level of paper output. This could be achieved by adopting such practices as electronic collection of data rather than paper surveys, redirecting faxes to the electronic system and scanning documents to electronic file rather than photocopying.
- We have held meetings with Ecotricity to discuss a potential partnership. Ecotricity currently generate almost 50 % of their total energy supply from their own turbines and profits are reinvested in extending their renewable provision. They have a relationship with a number of dioceses. If we judge the partnership to be appropriate then Ecotricity would pay into an Diocesan environment fund for every parish which signs up - this could give us a pot to fund additional environmental measures.
- The new Communities Task Group have been asked to look at the redeveloped "Shrinking the Footprint" tools for distribution to the parishes as a priority.
- We are participating in the Manchester Climate Change Stakeholders conference on the 30th of November.
- We have identified the environmental targets in the policy documents of a number of Boroughs and asked the relevant Borough Dean to highlight this with the local authority. This is to both demonstrate how our activity will help them to achieve carbon reduction targets and asking how else we can help.
- We have suggested to Chester and Liverpool the idea of hosting a regional "Shrinking the Footprint" conference. Initial soundings are positive and we are continuing discussions.

The Revd Richard Hawkins asked the following supplementary question:

“Would it be possible to expand the answer with regards to the concept of ‘the paperless office’ and regarding this would automated circulation of papers need a costly system in place?”

Mr Martin Miller provided a further response:

Martin explained that personally he did not believe in the paperless office and commented that at times paper was actually required to make reading easier. He also acknowledged the fact that at times IT could fail.

He explained that at present there was not an internal document management system at Church House but there were scanners that could create electronic documents from paper originals. He admitted that he had not investigated the various types of management systems on the market and so was unsure of their costs. However, he explained that consideration was being given to Church House sending out some annual documents, such as surveys, and the subsequent compilation of data electronically. He also explained that a working group had been established to review data collection.

DS119/06 Proclamation of Canon Number 29

The President gave notice that, at the July 2010 group of sessions of the General Synod held at York, Amending Canon Number 29 was promulgated and executed.

Amending Canon Number 29 makes a number of miscellaneous amendments to the Canons required in connection with the introduction of Common Tenure.

DS119/07 Board of Education Governance Structure

Mr Maurice Smith, Diocesan Director of Education, addressed Synod and explained that this matter had originally been addressed in June 2009 when members of Synod voted in favour of a new constitution for the Board of Education and requested that the Secretary of State make an order under Article 1(2) for the Board of Education’s membership to be constituted in accordance with the provisions set out in the paper [DS115/09].

Maurice explained that this had been done but there had been a mistake on the subsequent schedule that indicated that members of the Board of Education should be members of Diocesan Synod rather than elected by members of Diocesan Synod.

In order to rectify this matter Maurice explained that he had sought legal advice and was informed that the most appropriate way to do this was to revoke the old order and request a new order. It was necessary for Diocesan Synod to approve this.

The Bishop of Middleton, Chairman of the Board of Education, moved that:

“This Synod is resolved to:

- 1. Revoke, with the consent of the Bishop, the original Order under Article 1(3) of the Measure;*
- 2. Recommend that the Board of Education shall be constituted in accordance with the provisions stated in paper DS115/09A;*
- 3. Request that the Secretary of State, with the consent of*

- the Bishop, make a new Order under Article 1(2), for the Board of Education's membership to be constituted in accordance with the above provisions;*
4. *Commission the Director and the Registrar to make arrangements for the necessary amendments to the Board of Education's Memorandum and Articles of Association in accordance with the above resolution."*

The motion was carried unanimously with 84 votes for the motion, none against and no abstentions.

The Diocesan Registrar asked permission to make a legal intervention and Synod gave approval for this. The Registrar advised Synod that a clause to retain those persons currently nominated and elected as members of the Board of Education to continue in their role for the remainder of their term of office should have been included in the paper DS115/09A. She asked whether, under Standing Orders, Synod gave permission for that clause to be taken.

Members of Synod gave their permission unanimously for this clause to be taken. The clause referred to is:

'Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 6 those nominated and elected members who immediately before the coming into effect of this Order are members of the Board shall be the first nominated and elected members of the Board for the transitional period from the date hereof until the 31 December 2012'

DS119/08 Report by the Board of Education 2009 - 10

Mr Maurice Smith, Director of Education, addressed Diocesan Synod. He explained that going forward the Board of Education Annual Report would be given at the Autumn session of Synod.

He explained that the Board of Education aligned itself with the Bishop's pilgrimage vision and worked towards passing on the gospel message of faith, hope and love. To do this he informed members of the various changes that had been occurring within the Board of Education during the year such as the modernising of the constitution which had seen the reduction of members of the Board to a more manageable and effective size plus the removal of several ineffective committees and the establishment of short-term sub-groups concerning the Bi-centenary of the National Society and the Compatibility of Science and Religion debate.

He spoke of the importance of growing church schools; since 2007 the number of places in church schools had either grown or at least been sustained. In the Summer there had been Cathedral services for 1300 year 6 primary school leavers and also a service for retiring head teachers. He also spoke of the opening of the diocese's first 'all-age' academy, St Catherine's, which was doing very well. He also reminded members of the painful situation that would see the closure of Hesketh Fletcher High School in Atherton.

He spoke of how the Board of Education served the community by delivering the RE curriculum and supporting schools that offered cause for concern. He reminded members that this was not a statutory duty of the Board but they chose to do this. He described the support available for leadership and

management and spoke of the good relationships between the Board and head teachers and governors. He also spoke of the good and courteous relationships with the various local authorities which were, at times, difficult due to different agendas.

Finally he spoke of the changes that may occur under the new coalition government highlighting the new Academies Act, diminution of local authorities and the policy of financial austerity that would see many projects cut back and schools required to spend less. He finished by commenting on an article in most recent edition of The Educational Supplement that called for the abolition of the collective act of worship in schools and how the Church of England may face many educational challenges in the future.

Question by unknown clergy person

Is the Board encouraging or discouraging academies?

Response by Mr Maurice Smith, Director of Education

Church of England schools need the explicit consent of the Board of Education to apply to become academies. The two schools that had recently applied had been given conditional approval but the funding and governance would need to be considered before formal approval was given. Each potential application would be considered by the Board on an individual basis.

Mr Maurice Smith introduced Miss Susie Mapledoram, Diocesan Youth Officer, to address Diocesan Synod.

Susie explained that she had provided a small box for every member of Synod that contained various items that symbolised the importance of youth work within the diocese.

- Modelling clay- to remind us of the creativity of young people;
- A shell- as a reminder that it was important to listen and take on board what young people have to say;
- A party popper- recognising the potential of young people and encouraging them to release it;
- A candle – as a symbol of hope and that we can bring hope by sharing the gospel;
- A stone with the word ‘time’ written on it – to remind us that time was precious and something that we seem to have less and less of. Young people just want somebody to be with them so we need to consider how much time we could give to them;
- A gemstone – to remind us of our value and the value of young people – the media does not help to raise our esteem and there are many young people with low self-esteem;
- A heart – to remind us of love – lots of people wish that they were doing more for young people and need to be reminded that they are interconnected with the life-changing love of God threaded through us; an authentic relationship that is set to last.
- A label – to represent belonging and make us think about how we can assure young people where and who they belong to.

Susie explained that the box and its contents were to encourage people to work with young people and remind them that they are appreciated and valued. She explained that it could be used as a resource for praying for young people to be taken back to their parishes. She finished by thanking members

for all the work they did for the young people of the Diocese.

The Bishop thanked both Maurice and Susie for their excellent presentations.

DS119/09 The Cathedral Vision and Development Plan

Mr David Marshall, Director of Communications; The Dean of Manchester; Mr Warren Smith, Lord Lieutenant of Manchester; and Mr Anthony O'Connor, Cathedral Development Project Manager, were invited to address Diocesan Synod.

David Marshall explained that four years ago Synod had been asked to comment about the Cathedral. The feedback provided many negative comments but only a few good ones. Members were also asked how they would like the Cathedral to be and this feedback was taken on board for the many ongoing improvements that were now being implemented.

The feedback was also utilised to prepare the documents: 'Vision 2012'. He explained that the Cathedral tended to receive a lot of mixed press but he reminded members of the many different roles that the Cathedral held. He highlighted that it was the base for a praying community, a place of worship and a place for mission outreach. Worship times had been changed to suit people better, outreach work had been undertaken with the Arndale Centre and an Evangelism Course had been rolled out. He also explained how Susie Mapledoram was helping with a city centre youth project and also the Cathedral was now forming links with St Ann's Manchester and Sacred Trinity Church in Salford. He explained that he was committed that the Cathedral should not live in a bubble.

Anthony O'Connor explained that the '2012 Vision' document was a catalyst for the new development and highlighted some of the improvements that would be made:

- Repair and renovation of the Cathedral fabric, roof and interior of the building adding additional space to support the work of the Cathedral.
- Installation of a new organ and establishment of a music endowment fund to support the wider musical life of the Cathedral and its partnership with Chetham's School of Music.
- Amendments to the Cathedral boundary and soft landscaping to encourage social activity and amenity.
- Opening up of Cathedral entrances to improve visitor linkages and activate adjacent street environments.
- Creation of a coherent internal and external lighting scheme that would address four levels: these are base, enhanced, local and feature lighting.
- Reordering of the Cathedral Visitor Centre, creating additional entrances.
- Improving exposure of Hanging Bridge Ditch with new linkages to Victoria Arches and the Cathedral Visitor Centre.
- Regeneration of Victoria Arches to provide active river frontage.
- Creation of a series of contemporary pavilions to activate public spaces and provide physical and visual linkages for arts, music and education.

Warren Smith explained that the Bishop's pilgrimage had energised the whole diocese. He was also grateful to the Dean had interest and vision and

engaged with a much wider vision. Manchester City Council were also taking an interest in what was happening at the Cathedral and was an opportunity for the Church to work with the community with the Cathedral as a central figure. He stressed the importance of everyone working together for this vision to happen.

The Bishop thanked the group for the excellent team and personal commitments and spoke of the enthusiasm and energy under the Dean's leadership. He spoke of how now the Mother Church had a depth of spirituality and sense of vision and the whole diocese was in support. He also commented that David Marshall was regarded as one of the best Communications Directors in our national Church.

Finally the item was concluded by the Bishop, the Dean and the Lord Lieutenant officially starting the Cathedral's new website.

DS119/10 General Synod and Women Bishops

The Right Revd Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester, was invited to address Diocesan Synod. He gave formal notice to members that a special session of Synod would be held on Saturday, 24th September where the only item of business would be the debate concerning 'Women in the Episcopate'. A formal vote would be taken and the result forwarded to General Synod as a guide of how each diocese had voted.

He explained that as this was such an important matter it would be necessary to ask every deanery synod to hold a debate also. He highlighted the importance of well informed debates and advised members that a known panel of people both for and against the legislation would meet early next year to see how each side would be represented. He advised that Deanery synod agendas would need to allow adequate time for this

The Bishop explained that he needed a steer from Synod about this issue and asked if members agreed to the following:

- a known panel of representatives would be established;
- the matter should be debated by every Deanery Synod;
- Every Deanery Synod should provide a response to Diocesan Synod.

Members of Synod voted overwhelmingly in favour of these proposals and there were no votes against.

DS119/11 Deanery Synod Membership Scheme

The proposed Deanery Synod Membership Scheme for 2011-2014 had been circulated and some comments were made:

Revd Richard Hawkins [Oldham East Deanery and Bishop's Council member] Commented on behalf of Mr Geoff Dent, that a query had recently been raised at Bishop's Council concerning the potential size of Deanery Synod due to the proposed scheme. The matter had been given consideration but it was noted that the Church Representation Rules required that the scheme be approved before 31st December in the year prior to the scheme taking effect. Due to the lack of time members of Bishop's Council had agreed to recommend the current scheme but the matter would be reconsidered in the future before the next triennium.

Revd Dr Jeremy Sheehy [Eccles Deanery]

Queried what Mr Dent's criticism of the scheme had been?

Dr Peter Capon, General Synod and Bishop's Council member

Explained that the criticism referred to churches with large electoral rolls that would be entitled to 12 Deanery Synod representatives according to this scheme. Mr Dent had suggested that a scheme similar in scale to that recommended in the Church Representation Rules for the size of PCCs; this would allow for a reduced and proportionate lay representation on Deanery Synod.

The Chairman proposed that:

"This Synod adopts the scheme of membership for lay representation on Deanery Synods for the triennium 2011-2014 as set out on the paper circulated [DS119/11]."

The motion was carried with 2 votes against and 4 abstentions.

DS119/12 Towards 2025

The Right Revd Chris Edmondson, Bishop of Bolton, addressed Diocesan Synod.

He explained that over recent months he had come to see that what had become known as the '2025 agenda' was not about less – whether in terms of clergy numbers and thereby our effectiveness as churches – so much as more. The more being the opportunity to see more people's gifts – lay and ordained – being released in new ways to enable the ministry and mission of the church to be even more effective than at present.

He reminded members of when he spoke at the last Synod in June, that 2025 was not a magic date, nor is it yet another piece of top down planning to be imposed on already over burdened parishes. It was a call to everyone to be aware of how things were likely to be, so that we could ensure that in our Diocese of Manchester, the Church has a future and the future has a Church.

He spoke of the three goals that in recent year had been at the heart of the Diocesan vision:

- Growing Churches – would mean new commitments to mission, not the assumption that others would come to us;
- Serving Communities - would mean being alert to the key needs, and developing partnerships with others, not becoming inward looking and separate;
- Increasing Giving – would mean primarily rediscovering shared ministry and the idea that mission and ministry are the work of all the people of God.

He spoke of the Diocesan aim to see 350 serving OLM's/Readers in place by 2025 which, broken down, equalled one new vocation to Reader ministry and one to OLM per Deanery per year from now until 2025. He explained that 2011 would be a crucial year that laid the foundations for what we look to in the future.

The four priorities to ensure this would be:

- Mission

- Mutual support
- Discipleship
- Vocations

He explained that following the Bishop's Council all day meeting last January, he called together a diverse group of people now known as the 'Vocations Development Group' which aimed to foster a strategy for developing more and different vocations, including developing a greater understanding that God wants all Christians to live lives shaped and directed by His call. The group decided to send out free copies of the 'Life Calling' course to each parish with the strong encouragement to use this as a Lent or Post Easter course in 2011.

Their hope, prayer and expectation was that, in addition to the value of the course itself in affirming 'whole life discipleship', there would be those who were encouraged to consider various forms of public ministry, lay or ordained.

He informed Synod that as an immediate opportunity to follow this up, in May 2011 the Living Stones vocations conference would be held in each of the four Archdeaconries instead of the one autumn conference. The same opportunities would be there to explore a wide range of different forms of public ministry, including ordination, reader ministry, Church Army, Pioneer Ministry, or a call to the religious life. In connection with this, the booklet 'Called to Ministry' had been updated. He urged Synod members to be prayerful and proactive in encouraging people to attend these conferences and advised that the scheduled dates were:

- 7th May - Rochdale and Salford Archdeaconries
- 21st May - Bolton and Manchester Archdeaconries.

He spoke of the success of the Foundations for Ministry course and advised that January 2011 would see the start of the Authorised Lay Ministry course. He was grateful to all the Discipleship and Ministry Training Team for the work they do, but gave special mention to the Revd Jayne Prestwood who had worked hard on both these developments.

There was also a need for support of both existing serving clergy and congregations and he explained that the theme of the forthcoming Formation Days would be 'Enabling Leadership' with sessions focussing particularly on leadership issues for OLM's, NSM's, Church Army Officers and Readers and those who have or would have incumbent status roles. There would be input from Malcolm Grundy, who in addition to having written extensively on the subject, had also been a vicar, Archdeacon and most recently Director of the Foundation for Church Leadership

There was also work being done by a small group to develop an ongoing leadership programme, which would be aimed at those clergy who would be exercising their ministries for a number of years to come. Finally he explained that 2010 had seen the development of Assistant DDOs working with David Sharples, who alongside having become Archdeacon of Salford continued to be DDO. As a result there were currently 73 people exploring different forms of ordained ministry, 20 of these were OLM enquirers which was already significantly up on the last few years. He explained that ultimately we were dependent on the grace of God who is the one who builds His Church, but He expected all to play their parts, either in responding to a fresh call to serve, or

in encouraging that in others and he quoted: 'Without Him we cannot; without us He will not'.

The Bishop offered thanks to Bishop Chris and his Leadership Team and Senior Staff for concentrating on these very important matters. He explained that we had a common direction under God and along with our Ecumenical partners and companions in other religions needed to counter the ever increasing secular agenda.

The Bishop thanked members of Synod for attending this meeting and once again offered thanks to those at Salford City Academy who had allowed use of their facilities.

The Blessing