

Diocesan Synod Report to Wimbledon APM, May 2022

Two members of Wimbledon PCC are also members of Southwark Diocesan Synod: Neal Harvey and Revd Clive Gardner. Diocesan Synod met three times during the year: 7 July 2021, 20 November 2021 and 12 March 2022. This report has been compiled from the minutes and outline summaries available on the diocesan website at <https://southwark.anglican.org/about-us/who-we-are/governance-synods/>.

Meeting of 7 July 2021

Excerpts from the minutes follow. The full minutes including presentation slides are here:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DS21M2-Minutes-of-the-Diocesan-Synod-7-July-Combined.pdf>

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), Alan Saunders, along with the Diocesan Secretary and Director of Finance, gave a presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 2020. The Annual Report had been unanimously approved by the Diocesan Council of Trustees at its May meeting. The presentation slides can be found at Appendix B. Mr Alan Saunders (Chair of the DBF) moved that: "this Synod receives the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020, for the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance."

The Diocesan Synod formally received the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 2020 by a unanimous electronic vote.

FINANCIAL UPDATE IN THE LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Diocesan Secretary and Mark Rhodes, the Director of Finance, gave a brief update and overview of diocesan finances (through the pandemic) and the road to recovery as we emerge from restrictions. The presentation slides can be found at Appendix B.

LAY LEADERSHIP AND LAY MINISTRY REPORT: END OF TRIENNIUM UPDATE

The Revd Canon Wendy Robins gave a presentation on the work that followed from the Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Group report which had been endorsed by Synod in 2018. This included among other things, the creation of the now established Lay Council, new forms of ministry (licensed, commissioned and affirmed) and with emphasis on training and empowering the laity. The presentation slides can be found at Appendix B.

DEANERIES ADVISORY GROUP REPORT: END OF TRIENNIUM UPDATE

The Revd Canon Jay Colwill gave a presentation, alongside a supporting paper, on the work that followed from the Deaneries Advisory Group Report which had been endorsed by Synod in 2018. This included a greater emphasis on breathing new life into deaneries and was closely linked to the Lay Leadership Report, Deanery Mission Action Plans and Deanery Leadership Teams.

ECO DIOCESE WORKING GROUP: END OF TRIENNIUM UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The Bishop of Kingston, Nicola Thomas and Sue Mallinson gave a presentation on environment matters especially in relation to gaining Bronze Eco Diocese status. The presentation slides can be found at Appendix B. The presentation included a video presentation from the Youth Forum on their views of environmental justice.

A requirement of Bronze status was to have an updated Environment Policy, which is linked to the requirements of the status. An updated, high level, policy had been circulated in advance and endorsed by the Eco Diocese Working Group and the Diocesan Council of Trustees.

The Bishop of Kingston moved that: "this Synod welcomes and approves the Diocesan Environment Policy as the next step on our journey in line with the Fifth Anglican Mark of Mission (to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth)."

The motion was passed by a unanimous electronic vote.

Meeting of 20 November 2021

Excerpts from the summary follow. The full summary including presentation slides can be found here:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Web-Update-Brief-outline-summary-of-the-Synod20-November-2021-Combined.pdf>

SEE OF CROYDON

Following the announcement that Bishop Jonathan (Bishop of Croydon) will be leaving the Diocese. Bishop Christopher noted the process for appointment of a successor. This included consultation with the Diocesan Council of Trustees and the Diocesan Synod. Members were given an opportunity to speak and participate in discussion of the role prior to affirming, unanimously, their wish to support the intention to appoint a successor. A

meeting of the Diocesan Commission had been scheduled to discuss the matter further at a National Level on December 8th.

NEW TRIENNIAL WELCOME

The Chair of the House of Laity and Clergy each gave a formal welcome to newly appointed members of the Synod and those returning. There had been an approximate 50% turnover of membership, which was very encouraging with new members and some healthy continuity.

SOUTHWARK VISION & ANNUAL OBJECTIVES

The Diocesan Secretary and Jackie Pontin, the Deputy Diocesan Secretary, gave a presentation highlighting areas and updates from the 2021 Annual Objectives, as well as a detailed presentation on the 2022 Objectives as approved by the Policy & Finance Committee and the Diocesan Council of Trustees. A copy of the slides used can be found at Appendix B. The Bishop of Southwark moved that: "this Synod endorses the Annual Objectives for 2022" The motion was passed by a unanimous electronic vote.

OUR COMMON LIFE TOGETHER – 'GOING BEYOND SOUTHWARK VISION'

Members were given an opportunity to engage with the work that was happening in response to Southwark Vision and how they could share the information with others, particularly deaneries and parishes. The session, which included group work, was led by the Revd Canon Wendy Robins and the Revd Lotwina Farodoye. Feedback was given, briefly, in the meeting and via Zoom chat; which would be compiled and used to help deliver Southwark Vision in the context and character of Our Common Life together. The session concluded with a video which had been initially presented to the Diocesan Council of Trustees highlighting the work and areas which had been undertaken together with deaneries and parishes in the last Triennium.

2022 BUDGET APPROVAL

The Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance presented the 2022 Budget and 3-year forward view, with the Diocesan Secretary and Director of Finance also supporting answers to questions from Synod members. Although a deficit budget had been approved in 2020 for 2021, there was optimism as the parishes had been generous in the Parish Support Fund pledges, which was attributed to the close relationship between parishes, staff at Trinity House and the Archdeacons. Parishes were thanked for their generosity in the mission and ministry of the Diocese. There had also been additional grants bestowed to the Diocese.

The Budget Summary was circulated in advance of the Meeting and the slides used can be found at Appendix B. The Chair of the Board of Finance moved that the consolidated budget for 2022 be considered and that: "this Synod approves the total budget expenditure of £26.246M which is based on a total budgeted income of £25.108M"

The motion was passed overwhelmingly by 96% of members - Yes (102), No (2) and Abstain (2).

ELECTIONS UPDATE

The Chair of the House of Laity gave a brief update on various elections that were, or were due to be, completed.

Meeting of 12 March 2022

Excerpts from the summary follow. The full summary including presentation slides can be found here: https://southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Web-Update-Brief-outline-summary-of-the-Synod-12-March-2022_combined.pdf.

INTEGRITY OF CREATION: 5TH MARK OF MISSION: ECO DIOCESE & CARBON NET ZERO PRESENTATION

The Bishop of Kingston introduced the Eco Diocese and Carbon Net Zero item, which was then presented by Jack Edwards (Diocesan Environment Officer) and Nicola Thomas (Head of JPIC). A copy of the slides used in the presentation can be found at Appendix B.

The presentation gave an overview of the three environment stands in which the Environment Working Group and the Eco Diocese Working Group were focussing efforts around the Routemap of Carbon net Zero and Eco Diocese registration. Members of the Diocesan Youth Forum, at the previous Synod, had prepared a short video on climate justice – the video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGrHOX9mdUg>.

Many resources were available to parishes and deaneries via the website and Blogs including training and information events. Members were encouraged to contact the Environment Team with any queries or suggestions at environment@southwark.anglican.org.

MAJOR SYNODICAL TRIENNIAL PRIORITIES: GROUPWORK

The Diocesan Secretary gave a brief update and presentation of the Southwark Vision, continuing themes from the previous triennium (Deaneries, Lay ministries and Environment) and the 2022 Themes covering Connection and communication and Rebuilding Finances. A copy of the slides can be found at Appendix B.

Members then joined in Group Work to discuss and feedback on this Synod's triennial priorities:

- Implementation of Anti-Racism Charter
- Connectedness and Communication
- Parish finances for growth in post Pandemic recovery
- Environment (including Carbon net Zero)
- Clergy wellbeing in times of change
- Other areas (such as further) Deaneries Development/Lay Ministries

Feedback from the Groupwork was to be discussed among the Senior Management Team and members were encouraged to continue to share ideas throughout the triennium.

FINANCIAL & PANDEMIC UPDATE PRESENTATION

Mark Rhodes, the Director of Finance, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation, slides can be found at Appendix B, updating members on the end of year (2021) and projected 2022 Diocesan Finances.

The Diocesan Secretary gave a brief update on the new normal as restrictions had been lifted and parishes and the Diocese returned to a more recognisable pattern of worship, work and fellowship. The Corona Virus Task Group continued to meet and issue guidance to parishes and Deaneries.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

The Revd Canon Wendy Robins, the Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education updated members and gave a presentation (which can be found at Appendix B) on the Living in Love and Faith process, which included an introductory video, sharing the six principles for Living Well Together:

- Acknowledge PREJUDICE
- Speak into SILENCE
- Address IGNORANCE
- Cast out FEAR
- Admit HYPOCRISY
- Pay attention to POWER

Members who were not a part of the process yet were encouraged to sign up and join in with the discussions and resources from the National Church. The Synod joined in small groups to share:

- whether or not they had involvement the LLF process
- explain what they did and how they found participating in the process
- what, if anything did they learn
- if they had not been involved explain why this was

Feedback following the Groupwork was gathered and would be passed onto the LLF Working Group at its next meeting.

Revd Clive Gardner
Diocesan Synod representative
26th April 2022