

# Minutes of the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod held on 17 March 2018 at St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh

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## Synod commenced with Eucharist at 8.30am

Synod held a moment of silence to remember those who had died since the last Synod:

Sandy Burwell

Nigel Cook

Professor Duncan Forrester

Revd John Grover

Revd Donald Guthrie

Revd Mary Pat Lennard

Mary Mackintosh

## **OPENING BUSINESS**

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### HONORARY CANON

Bishop John reminded Synod that the Very Rev Graham Forbes had retired as Provost of St Mary's Cathedral in June 2017 after over 30 years of service. He proposed, on behalf of the Cathedral Chapter, that he should be made an Honorary Canon. Synod **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to his appointment.

### BISHOP OF ESPOO

Bishop John reported to Synod that Bishop Tapio Luoma had recently been elected as Archbishop of Finland. He asked if Synod wished him to send its congratulations to Bishop Tapio, and this was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**.

### BISHOP OF ABERDEEN

Bishop John reminded Synod that the Rev Canon Anne Dyer, until recently the Rector of Haddington, had been consecrated as Bishop of Aberdeen on 1<sup>st</sup> March. He asked Synod if it wished him to send greetings to Bishop Anne, and Synod **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**.

## DUNBAR ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Bishop John reminded that St Anne's Episcopal Church has entered into a partnership with the Methodist Church in Dunbar some two years previously. The formalisation of this partnership had now been approved by the General Synod, and this was the formal report to Diocesan Synod that this had happened.

## **BISHOP'S ADDRESS**

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Bishop John spoke of the gift of Lent as a time to spend on things we often passed by. Synod began with Eucharist, which reminded us that God can be found in the routine matters of finance and governance as well.

*[The full text of the Bishop's address can be found on the Diocesan website]*

## **APOLOGIES AND WELCOMES**

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The Very Revd Frances Burberry welcomed the following newcomers to Synod:

Marnet Hargreave, Alternate Lay Representative, St John's Selkirk

Gillian Stewart, Lay Representative, St Mary's Cathedral

Isobel Watson, Lay Representative, St John's Princes Street, Edinburgh

Vivien Bremner, Alternate Lay Representative, St Cuthbert's Colinton, Edinburgh

Lizzie Smith, Lay Representative, St Michael and all Angels, Edinburgh

David Ogilvie, Lay representative, St John's Jedburgh

Mike Betts, Lay Representative, St Peters Peebles

The Rev Richard Tiplady, Director of Mixed Mode Training, Scottish Episcopal Institute

The Rev Margaret Pedersen, Curate, Holy Trinity, Melrose

Wendy Pemble, Alternate Lay Representative, Christ Church, Falkirk

Ollie Clegg, Ordinand, St Mungo's Balerno

The Rev Christine Downey, Rector, St Mary's Dalmahoy

Judith Stevenson, Lay Representative, St James's Leith, Edinburgh

*There were 125 Attendees (67 Clergy - 66%; 58 Lay - 89%) with apologies from 8 Clergy and 2 Lay Members*

## **BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL**

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Bishop John introduced representatives of the two nominated charities, who spoke about the work that would be supported by the 2018 Appeal:

**Karen Reed from EMMS International.** She outlined the aims of the organisation, to create a just world, ensuring that all had access to basic health care. She then presented a short film about its work in Malawi. Nurses provided a support system and funding would help to train more nurses. It was moving to work in palliative care, and was the only charity in Malawi to do so.

**Catherine Dawson, a Trustee of the Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre.** She spoke to Synod about the impact of sexual violence. The Crisis Centre provided advocacy and information to survivors of such violence. It was increasingly understood that these were traumatising and life-changing experiences, which had long-term impact on the victims. The charity was also now supporting proactive prevention projects in schools.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

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### SYNOD MINUTES

Synod confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2017 at St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow, with one amendment:

The Rev Jacqui Du Rocher was *also* curate of St Leonard's Lasswade

### STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Godfrey Robson, Diocesan Secretary, presented the report. The Rev Canon Malcolm Round and the Rev Canon Ian Paton had ended their terms of office on the committee, and they were thanked wholeheartedly for their invaluable contributions. Victoria Stock and Neil Stewart had joined the committee during the year. The consequences of the death of Nigel Cook, the Diocesan Treasurer, in November 2017 had been significant. The support of the members of the Standing Committee in keeping the work afloat had been much valued. In reflecting on the year, Godfrey Robson observed the healthy number of projects and initiatives that were underway in the diocese, which was very encouraging.

**The motion that Synod approved the report of the Standing Committee was proposed by Godfrey Robson and seconded by The Hon. Barnaby Miln. This was carried unanimously.**

## FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Ian Lawson paid tribute to the late Nigel Cook, who had been Diocesan Treasurer until his untimely death in November 2017. It had been a huge support to have had Nigel as Diocesan Treasurer, albeit only for a short while after he had started as the new Convenor of the Finance & Management Committee. He was very grateful that Simon Filsell, the Diocesan Administrator, had stepped in to cover as much as possible. The annual audit was almost complete. A deficit of £22k had been budgeted for 2017, but the outcome in the General Fund, setting aside restricted funds, was a £12k deficit. The accounts would be signed off at the May Standing Committee meeting and presented to Synod in the autumn. The income from the Unit Trust Pool had increased over the budgeted amount, and some expenditure had either been delayed or had not happened, for a variety of reasons. The St Hilda's Fund and the St Andrew's Fund had jointly seen a surplus of £18.5k, which was effectively grant money not applied for. This would be carried forward into the 2018 budget. Ian Lawson made a plea for the timely submission of annual charge accounts and financial schedules from vestries. At the time of the meeting 10 of the 55 charges had still not submitted them. He then thanked the members and conveners of the pendant committees for their work during the year. Consideration was being given to a replacement Diocesan Treasurer, and this would be moved forward as a matter of priority once the annual accounts have been finalised.

**The motion that Synod approved the report of the Finance & Management Committee was proposed by Ian Lawson and seconded by the Rev Canon Dean Fostekew. This was carried unanimously.**

## PRESENTATION OF CATHEDRAL ACCOUNTS

The Very Rev John Conway presented the accounts. He noted that the Cathedral should be accountable to Synod, and that it should be a place for the whole diocese. In that context, he looked forward to welcoming the whole diocese on The Big Day on 28 April. During the year 2016-2017 the running costs of the Cathedral were £745k. This included expenditure of £100k on the various properties. Overall, there was a £43k deficit in running costs. This was not sustainable, and fundraising would be needed. This was, however, already being addressed.

## SAFEGUARDING

Simon Filsell, the Diocesan Protection Officer, reminded Synod that the subject was not only about formal procedures, but had the underlying question of "*are our churches safe places for anyone to be welcomed into?*" There had been an exceedingly large number of headlines in the national and church press in recent months, which served as a reminder of the adverse impact on church bodies. Where there were missing Annual Returns and lack of reporting at vestry meetings and AGMs, an assumption had to be made that Safeguarding was not a priority. Although, during 2017, no cases had been dealt with, there were two cases being dealt with already within the diocese, in 2018. It was noted that the PVG Coordinators in congregations were indeed only coordinators, and that everyone had a responsibility for looking after their neighbour, and making their church a safe place to be welcomed into. As a formal matter, he reminded Synod that the appointment of

Coordinators by vestries required the approval of the Bishop, before such appointments could be implemented.

## ELECTIONS

Godfrey Robson presented the list of current General Synod members, and reported that the following had been proposed for the current vacancies:

- The Revd Diana Hall - Mid & East Area Council
- The Revd Canon Dean Fostekew - Diocesan Synod
- The Revd Ruth Green - Edinburgh Forth Area
- *There were no nominations for the clergy vacancy from the Borders Area Council*
- Ms Catherine Outram - Edinburgh East Area Council
- Mrs Wendy Pemble - West Forth Area Council

The vacancies on the particular diocesan committees were noted.

**The members listed above were, therefore, duly elected to General Synod.**

## MISSION AND MINISTRY

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The Rev Ruth Green presented the annual report. She related that she had not been fully aware of the huge breadth of work that had been undertaken during the convenorship of The Very Rev John Conway. The committee's work covered a wide variety of areas, including Continuing Ministerial Development, Initial Ministerial Education, Sector Ministry, Lay Readers, Spirituality, International, Youth & Children and the St Hilda's Fund, to name just a few. The four Growing Together Roadshows had helped to form the vision of the diocese and how it could serve our communities and share our faith.

### CENTRE OF MISSION

Bishop John then spoke about the proposed link between the charges of Galashiels, Hawick, and Selkirk. Discussions had been underway for some time about a way forward for all three charges, whilst aiming to preserve the individuality of each one. Just recently, agreement had been reached for a new Centre of Mission, and an advertisement was about to be published for a full-time post to cover all three charges. This post would be a Church Army post, and would be supported and partly-funded by the Church Army. The Rev Annie Naish (Bishop's Enabler of Mission) commented that it had been quite a journey, but this was a very significant initiative, and it was heartening that the Church Army was putting funding into it. There had been a Church Army presence in Newcastleton, but there was no Episcopal Church there, so the relocation to Galashiels, Hawick and Selkirk has been a logical step. A Priest In Charge would be appointed, as well as a Pioneer Evangelist. It was a five-year project, which would have a process of support and review.

Karen Ellis, a member of the shared leadership team at St Peters Galashiels, was then introduced. She reflected that it had been an interesting journey with some false starts, but she was delighted that the Centre of Mission was now proceeding. Some were nervous about the change, but all three vestries were behind the initiative, and wanted it to work.

Listening to the experiences of the Centre of Mission established by the Church Army in Dundee had been very helpful in planning. It was recognised that it was not only about bringing people into church but, as in Dundee, about meeting and engaging with people where *they* were. She asked for prayers of support that the right person could be appointed.

#### MIXED MODE TRAINING

The Rev Richard Tiplady (Director of Mixed Mode Training, SEI) reported on his recent appointment, having oversight of this training. It was a new program towards ordination, and started early with candidates. There would be a change of emphasis away from training, which featured a few placements, to fixed placements, around which the training would be delivered. Housing would be included, and the Province would provide 50% of the funding. The placements would have an emphasis on mission, and he was currently looking for charges to express an interest in taking a placed candidate.

#### ST HILDA'S FUND

The Rev Annie Naish reported that the oversight of this Fund was part of her role as Bishop's Enabler of Mission. The Fund covered a small grants scheme, curate funding and wider diocesan strategic mission. It was recognised that the application process for grants had been a complex one in the past, but there was an aim to simplify this, and initial dialogue was always encouraged.

The Rev David Dixon (St Barnabas, Edinburgh) reported on their partnership with the Bethany Christian Trust, which funded a 2 days per week worker in Moredun. There was a school helper in a local primary school, helping children from vulnerable backgrounds, alongside a Christian teacher. They were also developing a gardening project, which would also involve the parents. In the longer term, they were looking to establish a drop-in centre.

#### CURATES

Bishop John reported on the welcome problem, that more people were being called to serve and be ordained, and that the number of current charges able to take curates was insufficient.

Charges were therefore being sought, and it was emphasised that funding should not preclude any exploratory discussions.

The Rev Canon Malcolm Round (St Mungo's, Balerno) asked for a clarification of the definition of 'lead' and 'pioneer' evangelists.

The Rev Annie Naish responded to say that the advert stated the requirement for having an experience of "*strategic planning for mission and enabling church growth*". It was clear that it was not only a position which would train others in mission and evangelism, but would also engaged in those areas directly.

## THE BIG DAY

The Rev Annie Naish expressed her hope that all had heard about the event on 28<sup>th</sup> April in St Mary's Cathedral. The day was about celebrating something together, as a diocese, with a rich variety of congregations coming together in one place. She was hoping that there would be the sharing of ideas, resources and experiences. It would be an all-age event, so no one should feel excluded. It would conclude with an act of worship.

## ENGAGING ALL GENERATIONS

Claire Benton-Evans (Diocesan Youth & Children Officer), presented her report on 2017. This reflected on the previous year, but she was now looking forward to the next 12 months. 2018 had been designated by Scottish Government as the "Year of Young People" but she identified that it should be a priority in any year. However, it was an opportunity to showcase this area of work, and to encourage the involvement and participation of young people in our churches, and see how to make them full members and participants. We needed to think about how we could give young people the platform in our work and worship. Olivia Smith (who spoke at the October 2017 Synod) and the Primus had met with the First Minister at Parliament, to discuss issues with young people, such as child poverty. She encouraged charges to provide photos and videos of activities which showed the involvement of young people in congregations. She was looking to collect their words, thoughts and aspirations, and to publish them alongside the images and videos on the diocesan website for everyone to see. She had just returned from attending a Church of England conference and, as the sole representative of the Scottish Episcopal Church, she was proud to talk about the work of the Glenalmond Youth Camp. At the 2017 Camp, there were 27 acts of worship, with an average attendance of 30. This clearly demonstrated the desire that already existed amongst young people to be active participants in church life and worship.

Maureen O'Neill (Director of Faith In Older People) reminded Synod that the organisation had started within the Scottish Episcopal Church, having been established by Malcolm Goldsmith to ensure that support was available for all older people, to remain active in their faith and their Christianity, no matter what their individual circumstances. Training was provided alongside other organisations and faiths. There was a programme of events, often involving international speakers. There was also an aim to make communities dementia-friendly, so that attendance at church was still possible. They were seeking to work with young people in our congregations to help them to understand the issues and challenges facing older people, including dementia. Although Faith In Older People was a separate charity, having an office within the diocesan office was important, as well as being a member of the office family. This established them, also, as part of the diocese and the province.

## DEVELOPING DISCIPLES

The Rev Libby Talbot reflected that discipleship might not be a commonly-used term, but was fundamental to our being Christians. Discipleship was not individualistic, and the first disciples learned, experienced, and made their mistakes together, as a group. We were called to be Christian disciples in every aspect of our lives. We needed to look at how we could inspire and encourage this discipleship and to equip our clergy in supporting people in their journeys.

Questions to be discussed around tables at Synod were:

- What has helped you to grow in your faith?
- How is your church helping people to become committed, whole-life followers of Jesus?
- What outside help do you think your church would value, to assist you in 'developing disciples'.

*Synod business was then paused to allow the discussions.*

## FUNDING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Rev Christine Barclay (Rector, St Peter's Linlithgow and St Columba's Bathgate) reported on the building development at St Peter's Church. Having commenced on 24 September 2017, the building work was now in the final weeks. It had been an amazing and very physical exercise, and was the conclusion of three long years of planning. St Peter's had a long-standing history of welcome, and the project consolidated and built new relationships. The initial plan was only to replace a toilet, but discussions led to a far more comprehensive scheme. Grant Bulloch, the architect - and a member of the congregation of St Pauls & St Georges in Edinburgh - had been a constant help and support well beyond his remit. It had been a huge leap of faith to move from a £70k project to one costing almost £¼m. Funding began to come in from a wide variety of sources, from bodies that recognised the spirit of initiative. An immense amount of work had been put in by Dr Lesley Stanley, a relatively new member of St Peter's congregation. All the work was based on a passion for St Peter's Church and its community. The prayer that had surrounded the congregation and the project had been overwhelming. On 30 May, Bishop John would lead an Act of Celebration, 90 years on from the completion of the original building of the church.

**The Motion that Synod approved the report of the Mission & Ministry Committee and its pendant committees was proposed by the Rev Ruth Green and seconded by the Rev Tembu Rongong. This was carried unanimously.**

*The Dean handed the chair back to Bishop John.*

## DEAN'S REPORT

The Very Rev Frances Burberry introduced her report with a slide showing her bar of chocolate, to 'give a flavour' of her years' work. In March, she had attended a Parliamentary discussion about the displacement of refugees. In April, she visited St Barnabas' Moredun and learned of the work in partnership with the Bethany Christian Trust. In May, there was a visitation to St Columba's by the Castle. This was one of 14 visitations in 2017. In June, she visited Nathan Cody's exhibition at the Modern Art Gallery, of models of 286 places of worship, featuring in the Edinburgh Yellow Pages. In July, she participated in the Growing Together Roadshow in Holy Trinity Haddington.

August featured the institutions of two new rectors, the Rev Sarah Shaw at Christ Church Falkirk and then the Rev Andrew Cooper at St John's Jedburgh. In October. There was a gathering at the University Chaplaincy, about those for whom education was out of reach,

and proposed the concept of scholarships for refugees. In November, she attended a 'Women In Leadership' conference in Rome, which reflected on the growing inclusiveness of churches. In December, she attended the Chanukiah Lighting at the Scottish Parliament. In January 2018, she undertook a visitation at St Mary's Dalmahoy. February had seen the meeting of the Diocesan Mission & Ministry Committee, the Standing Committee, a visit to Eyemouth, and a Scotland rugby victory over England in the Calcutta Cup. In March, she had been disappointed at not being able to attend the consecration of The Right Rev Anne Dyer in Aberdeen, due to the heavy snowfalls. That concluded her report.

### **The Bishop confirmed the Acts of Synod**