

# Minutes of the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod held on 25 October 2018 at St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh

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## **Synod commenced with Eucharist at 8.30am**

The Rev Canon Ruth Innes, Synod clerk introduced the following new members:

Lesley Dellow, Alternate Lay Representative, Kelso

Jill Drought, Alternate Lay Representative, Penicuik

Caroline Longley, Lay Reader, Church of The Good Shepherd, Edinburgh

David Ogilvie, Lay Representative, Jedburgh

The Rev Andrew Philip, Chaplain, St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

Paul Sawrey, Associate Rector, St Pauls and St Georges Edinburgh

Synod then held a moment's silence to remember those who had died since it last met:

Revd Dr Robin Boyd

+Neville Chamberlain

Christine Fairclough

Revd Richard Price

Revd Douglas Yeoman

## **OPENING REMARKS**

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Bishop John reflected on the recent years of austerity and the impact on those who would suffer most. As Christians, we should learn to speak a language of discipleship and should not just be a church for the poor, but also a church of the poor.

There were many vacancies in charges around the diocese, and it was a good time to reflect on the mission of those charges. The vacancy at Old St Paul's in Edinburgh

had come about through Canon Ian Paton becoming the new Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. Also, through the retirement of Canon Douglas Kornahrens, Holy Cross, Davidsons Mains in Edinburgh would become vacant.

Bishop John asked if Synod wished to pass its greetings to both Canon Paton and Canon Kornahrens, to mark these events, and it **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**.

There were new curates appointed, new ordinands in training. An appointment had now been made to the new group of the 'A7 Charges', comprising Galashiels, Selkirk and Hawick. The new congregation of The Mustard Seed was now going from strength to strength, in partnership with St Margaret's Church in Edinburgh

The congregation of Emanuel in Clermiston, Edinburgh, had chosen to close. It was originally a church plant from St Thomas', Costorphine, and its work should be celebrated, having touched many lives over the years. The Bishop's Enabler of Mission post was being reviewed and many had recognised the impact of Annie Naish around the diocese.

The decision of St Thomas', Costorphine to leave the SEC was a sad decision. Synod members had been given a letter from the Chair of Vestry. There was much to reflect on and, whilst a speedy conclusion was sought, it was felt that it should be an amicable parting. Bishop John asked for prayers for those from that congregation who would remain in the diocese, but in other congregations. There were financial implications, but the diocesan officers had worked hard to put together the budget for the next year. In the light of that, he commended that budget for acceptance.

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

## **ADMINISTRATION**

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### **SYNOD MINUTES**

Synod confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2018.

### **FINANCE & MANAGEMENT**

#### **Diocesan Accounts for 2017**

Godfrey Robson, Diocesan Secretary, reported that, following Nigel Cook's death in November 2017, Ian Lawson and Simon Filsell had worked hard to keep the business going. After initial searches for a replacement Diocesan Treasurer were not

ultimately successful, Ian Lawson kindly agreed to step down from the Convenorship of the Finance & Management Committee in order to become Diocesan Treasurer. Therefore, Godfrey Robson had agreed to take over as Convenor of the committee.

Synod **APPROVED** the appointment of Ian Lawson as Diocesan Treasurer and Godfrey Robson as Convenor of the Finance & Management Committee.

Ian Lawson presented the audited accounts for 2017, which had been approved by the Standing Committee. There had been no adverse comments from the auditors on diocesan procedures, and there were comments about the good work associated with those by Simon Filsell and his team. The outcome was a General Fund deficit of £12.6k, which was less than the budgeted deficit of £22k. There was uncertainty over the St Thomas' Costorphine quota arrears payments, and a provision for non-payment of £8.7k had been included. There had been a pause in the work of Initial Ministerial Education and Continuing Ministerial Development, which had resulted in some savings. Mission and building grants had been underspent by £22k. Investment values had increased by just under £500k but were represented as unrealised gains as the capital was invested in order to produce income.

#### QUESTIONS:

*The Revd Markus Dünzkofer, Rector, St John's Princes Street. Was it intended that St Thomas' should be asked to pay back the arrears of quota?*

*Ian Lawson responded to say that it was intended, as it was a constitutional requirement to do so, and the vestry of St Thomas' had accepted that.*

**The Motion that Synod noted the Diocesan Accounts for 2017 was proposed by Ian Lawson and seconded by David McLellan. This was carried UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Diocesan Financial Position 2018**

Ian Lawson reported that the 2018 budget had been set for a deficit of £10.4k. At the half-year stage, the projected General Fund deficit was £2.7k. This included a reversal of the provision for St Thomas' non-payment of quota. A pause in the Adventures In Faith programme had produced a net saving of £6k. The delay in the appointment to the Communications Coordinator post had also resulted in a £6k

saving. The costs of temporary staff to cover a 3-month case of staff illness, along with additional professional fees during the period without a Diocesan Treasurer' had cost an additional £8k. There had been an underspend of the St Hilda's Fund monies over several years, and the accumulation was now being used for stipend support and diocesan mission. Overall, the accounts of the diocese showed that it was solvent, the activities were operating close to the budget, the administration of the diocese was efficient and there had been a recent growth in the value of investments, which was a very satisfying position.

The Bishop thanked Ian Lawson and Godfrey Robson for all the extra work they have put in to keep the finances of the diocese in good order.

*- Bishop John then handed the Chair to the Dean -*

## **MISSION & MINISTRY**

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The Rev Dr Ruth Green, Convenor of the Mission & Ministry Committee, began by introducing the Rev Philip Blackledge, Convenor of the Information & Communications Committee. He reported that the process to recruit a new Communications Coordinator, had resulted in the appointment of James Parsons. In addition to taking on this role, he had also become the Social Media Officer for St Mary's Cathedral. Synod welcomed James Parsons. He reported that his principle role was to help charges. He was already in the process of compiling a jargon-free Social Media Guide to encourage its use across the diocese. He was also starting recording a series of short videos with members of the clergy, speaking about their work and their congregations, to share on websites and social media.

Ruth Green, then introduced Nathalie Mareš, who had recently been appointed as PA to the Dean & Administrative Assistant for Mission & Ministry. Synod welcomes Natalie, and she reported that she was facilitating mission and ministry by supporting key staff in their roles.

Ruth Green also reported the Rev Canon Ian Paton had left the committee, having been appointed as Bishop of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane. Helen Tyrrell had also stepped down from the committee, and there were now vacancies for two new lay members. Members of Synod were encouraged to suggest names for those vacancies.

The Rev Annie Naish then reflected on the progress since the Growing Together roadshows. It was important to look back to the March Synod, when there was still a search for an appointment for the A7 Charges, but she was delighted that an appointment had now been made and that a pioneer evangelist was now being sought as well. There was a new mixed mode training Ordinand at St John's Princes Street. She had been working hard to source details of initiatives and resources for mission, which were being regularly promoted every two weeks in The Communicant. She strongly encouraged members and their congregations to read The Communicant, and make use of the resources available. She was very grateful to have the help of Natalie Mareš in this work. Congregations were encouraged to share news of their own resources, to be included in The Communicant.

The Big Day in April 2018 in St Mary's Cathedral had been a wonderful celebration of diocesan life with around 500 attendees. They had planned for 30 church stalls, but ended up with 44. She thanked those who helped with hospitality, and it was noted that a number of church stalls had actually focused on the subject of hospitality. There had been great feedback about the opportunity to meet with those they might not otherwise have met. All the elements of Growing Together fitted with each other and not could be progressed in isolation. Bishop John would be joining with many others in Social Bite's Sleepout in the Park, but it was planned to start with an act of worship in St John's Church, Princes Street, and there was a search for church groups to join the worship and then the sleep-out. The next big event would be The Big Sing on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 in St Mary's Cathedral, featuring workshops during the day, and concluding with an Evensong, involving all participants.

Claire Benton-Evans, Diocesan Youth & Children Officer, then spoke about the Growing Together principle of 'Engaging All Generations'. In the early part of the year, she had accompanied the Primus to meet the First Minister in an ecumenical gathering and discussion at the Scottish Parliament. In the summer, the Glenamond Provincial Youth Camp took place and numbers were up yet again. This provided a safe space for young people to discuss and nurture their faith. It had been a real privilege to be a part of, and to see, young people devising and leading worship. She was now working on events beyond Glenamond and, in December, an 18+ event for Glenamond graduates and leaders would take place. This helped to keep the connections and friendships, even when delegates might move away to university. She had been invited to a Celebration of Young People in Scotland at the Scottish Parliament, and she had taken along 6 young people from the Scottish Episcopal Church to the event. They had spoken to MSPs about issues close to their own hearts. She had also planned a 'Wee Sleepout' in St Mary's Cathedral, in support of Social Bite. This was a joint event with St Andrew's Diocese, and there was a group of young people jointly planning the event with her.

Ruth Green, then introduced the review of Bishop's Enabler of Mission post. She reported that, in October 2015, Synod had agreed to fund the post for an initial three-year period to the end of September 2019. The budget for 2020 proposed to extend this. There had already been 2 very successful years, with Annie Naish having preached, organised events and roadshows, lead worship and helped to develop a clear diocesan strategy. Much more was needed to support Continuing Ministerial Development and to develop disciples in every congregation. There was a clear need to consolidate all the work that had been done and full proposals for the extended post would be produced for discussion at the March Diocesan Synod, but the funding for this was commended.

#### COMMENTS:

*The Rev Dr Sophia Marriage, Rector, St Mark's Portobello. She wanted to thank Annie Naish and Ruth Green for their work on this. As a priest in a burgeoning church, she had felt hugely supported and encouraged by having someone available to stand alongside her and enable her mission, and she felt that there was no choice but to continue this post.*

*The Rev Diana Hall, Rector, St Anne's Dunbar. It was clear that, in the Synod report, there were things to review, but the role itself was imperative. She felt that the structure of the role should be carefully considered so that one person was not overwhelmed trying to deliver it all.*

#### **Diocesan Budget For 2019**

Godfrey Robson reported that the process began by asking budget holders to make proposals for their work during the coming year. If all the proposals had been unilaterally accepted, there would have been a budgeted deficit of £42k. Significant work had been done to reduce the deficit through cost savings, combined with an increase in quota of 5%. In proposing the budget to the Standing Committee, there had been a perceived need to review the policy on investments with the possibility of a shift from capital growth to income growth in order to support the work in the next few years.

Ian Lawson presented the figures, which were divided into restricted, designated, and general funds in order to aid understanding. Project expenditure could be covered to a greater extent by the designated funds of the St Hilda's Fund and St Andrew's Fund. The General Fund would see a deficit of £12.5k. This was based on there being no income from St Thomas', Costorphine. The St Hilda's Fund would see expenditure of £41.9k, which included curate support, Ministry support for the A7 Charges and the Berwickshire Charges as well as the usual congregation grants. There was a medium-term aim to return the General Fund to a surplus position.

## QUESTIONS:

*The Rev Peter Harris, Rector, Dalkeith and Lasswade. He questioned whether savings could be made by moving diocesan office out of the Edinburgh area.*

*Rev John Penman, Edinburgh St Michael & All Saints. Would the 5% increase in quota be continuing or was it a one-off, in order to cover the removal of income from St Thomas'?*

*Ian Lawson replied that the lack of income from St Thomas' would have a continuing effect, even if it was decided that a 3% quota increase in 2020 was required, as that increase of 3% would be compounded on top of the 5% in 2019.*

**The Motion that Synod approved the Diocesan Budget for 2019 was proposed by Ian Lawson and seconded by David McLellan. The motion was CARRIED with 5 abstentions.**

*- The Dean handed the chair back to the Bishop -*

Bishop John reported that the budget had been placed at the end of the business as it was a mission budget. All the work of the committees was about mission, and he had personally found that the last Finance & Management Committee meeting, which considered the budget, was the most encouraging that he had attended. It was entirely appropriate that Synod considered the budget after the presentation by the Bishop's Enabler of Mission, and the Youth & Children Officer.

He then reported that the Rev Dr Ruth Green would shortly be moving to Aberdeen Diocese and, therefore, would step down from being Convenor of the Mission & Ministry Committee. He thanked her for her work during the relatively short time that she had been Convenor, and wished her every blessing as she moved to a new Ministry.

### **Any Other Business**

The Rev Canon Marion Chatterley reported on her new position as Chaplain at the Marie Curie Hospice in Edinburgh. She encouraged members to contact her if anyone they knew was either to receive treatment in the Hospice or were visiting relatives in the Hospice, so that she could be prepared for any ministry that she could offer to them.

**The Bishop confirmed the Acts of Synod**