

# Minutes of the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod held on 9 March 2019 at St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh

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## Synod commenced with Eucharist at 8.30am

*There were 110 attendees (50 Clergy - 65%; 60 Lay - 90%)  
with apologies from 10 Clergy and 4 Lay*

The Revd. Canon Ruth Innes, Synod Clerk, introduced the following new members:

- Christopher Arnold – Alternate Lay Rep, Christ Church Morningside, Edinburgh
- Elizabeth Cunningham – Lay Rep, St Catharine's Bo'ness
- Tom Honour - Lay Rep, St Paul's & St George's, Edinburgh
- Anne Martin – Alternate Lay Rep, St John's Princes Street, Edinburgh
- Elizabeth Philip – Alternate Lay Rep, St Peter's Lutton Place, Edinburgh
- Margaret Temple – Lay Rep, St Cuthbert's Colinton, Edinburgh

Bishop John then led a moment of silence for those who had died since Synod last met:

- The Revd. Richard Percival
- John Starr
- The Revd. Peter Allen
- The Most Revd. John Habgood – *Archbishop of York & former Rector of Jedburgh*

Bishop John asked Synod to approve the award of Lay Reader Emeritus to the following:

- Geoff Mason
- Rosemary Wilson
- Ian Young

Synod **APPROVED** the awards

## **BISHOP'S ADDRESS**

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Bishop John reflected on the many things happening in the diocese, and encouraged a focus on what we needed to take responsibility for. We needed to look at our part in the Scottish Episcopal Church, churches in Scotland, as well as the UK and internationally. He had recently visited St Paul's Cathedral in Dunedin, New Zealand, to renew the friendship with the Partner Diocese and to help them celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the cathedral. He recited the greetings sent by The Rt Revd. Dr Steven Benford, Bishop of Dunedin, to Synod.

There were also strong links with the Diocese of Espoo in Finland, and Dean Frances had represented the diocese at the consecration of Bishop Kaisa Hintikka. 2020 would see the next Lambeth Conference, and the opportunity to host the Bishops from Dunedin, Espoo and the Cape Coast.

The review of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) was leading its transformation into a new forum. In addition, there was due to be another meeting of the St Columba Group, with representatives of the Church of Scotland and the Church of England.

He reflected that the inequalities in the world would not disappear when Brexit occurred. His participation in the Social Bite 'Sleepout' in Princes Street Gardens, with a group from the diocese including Claire Benton-Evans and Annie Naish, raised funds for the homeless in Edinburgh. Along with the choices for the beneficiaries of the 2019 Lent Appeal, it reflected the need to work at removing those inequalities.

Bishop John then invited the beneficiaries of the Lent Appeal to explain a little of their work.

## **FRESH START BORDERS**

Irene McFadzen explained that it had been established in 2008 by Scottish Churches Action, and was run by a small number of volunteers. Its aim was to provide starter packs for those moving into accommodation after periods of homelessness. Although some key grants have been received, much of the ongoing funding was from local sources. There were many heart-warming responses from those who had received help. In the last 10 years, 2,200 starter packs had been provided. All of the donations received from the Lent Appeal would be used directly to help those in need.

## **MERCY SHIPS**

Vicki Clark, Lay Representative for St Leonard's, Lasswade, explained that she had served with Mercy Ships herself, after having worked for the NHS. It had been

founded in 1978 as an international Christian organisation to provide medical and community care in disadvantaged countries. There are 5 operating theatres and 82 ward beds. Since its founding, 95,000 life-changing operations had been performed in around 55 countries. Although the charity was faith-based, and held prayer meetings aboard ship, there was no attempt to convert to Christianity, and all the care was given independent of the patient's spiritual status.

*Bishop John then handed the chair to the Dean*

## **ADMINISTRATION**

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### SYNOD MINUTES

Synod confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2018

### ANNUAL REPORTS

#### **Diocesan Standing Committee**

Godfrey Robson, Diocesan Secretary, presented the report. He summarised the committee's work during the year, reflecting its key role in representing and acting for Diocesan Synod between Synod meetings, in overseeing the work of the diocese and holding the administration to account.

**The Motion that Synod approved the report of the Standing Committee was proposed by Godfrey Robson and seconded by Prebendary Bob King. This was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Diocesan Finance & Management Committee**

Godfrey Robson presented the report. He reminded synod that Ian Lawson had stepped down as Convener of the committee in order to become Diocesan Treasurer in 2018. The committee had had a full diet of meetings, with particular attention to accounts and budget. He drew Synod's attention to proposed changes in Provincial investment policy, with which the committee had some concerns which they were raising with the Province. The issue would arise at General Synod in June

## QUESTIONS

*The Revd. Willie Shaw, Rector of Bo'ness and Grangemouth. The language of "optimal returns" was not always helpful, and the way that we use our money should always be for "thy kingdom come". Were the results of the Province's consultation yet available?*

*Godfrey Robson responded that the proposed move of the Province towards managed funds would reduce the degree of ethical control of the investments, and this was one of the key issues to be raised and discussed by General Synod. The Diocesan Finance & Management Committee had responded to the consultation, but the results were not yet available.*

**The Motion that Synod approved the report of the Finance & Management Committee and its pendant committees was proposed by Godfrey Robson and seconded by Prebendary Bob King. This was CARRIED with one abstention.**

## EMMANUEL CHURCH, CLERMISTON

Bishop John reported that the congregation had taken the decision to close, as its numbers had gradually reduced. Under Canon 36, Section 12, it was stated that "if the Bishop, with the consent of the majority of the members present in the Diocesan Synod and qualified to vote, to declare that such charge shall cease to be an Incumbency or Joint Incumbency". There was no church building involved as it met in leased premises. The Lay Representative of Emmanuel Church, Chris Nelson, was present, and Bishop John asked that Synod's thanks and good wishes be passed on to the remaining members of the congregation, with the hope that they would find new congregations to be part of.

**The Motion that the Incumbency of Emmanuel Church be closed was proposed by Bishop John and seconded by Godfrey Robson. This was CARRIED with one vote against and no abstentions.**

## ALTERATIONS TO CANONS

The changes would receive a First Reading and General Synod in June, and an indication of the views of Diocesan Synods was being requested.

## Canon 52

The Revd. Philip Blackledge, a member of the Provincial Information & Communications Board, presented the proposed change, which was to dissolve the Provincial Board. Originally, it had been an editorial board for a provincial magazine publication, which now no longer existed. Its more recent business had dealt with significantly less-strategic items of detail, much of which was being dealt with at officer level. Dissolving the Board would make space for a different body with a significantly-revised remit.

### QUESTIONS

*Victoria Stock, General Synod member. She related that she had previously worked within the Communications Team at the General Synod Office. Although she had huge concerns around the proposal, she recognised that the current arrangement was not ideal. There needed to be a full review of the role of communications, but it could be a subcommittee having consultation with specialists, rather than a provincial board in its current format.*

*The Revd. Philip Blackledge agreed with those views, noting that good quality professional support was needed. However, communications had changed but the remit of the board had not, which had been the key issue. The Provincial Standing Committee had jurisdiction over the relevant officers, rather than the I&C Board. It was for Diocesan Synod to express a view on the dissolution and for General Synod to determine the format of a successor.*

### The vote of Diocesan Synod was as follows:

**FOR:** Bishop – 1; Clergy – 30; Lay – 31  
**AGAINST:** Clergy – 3; Lay – 2  
**ABSTENTIONS:** Clergy – 10; Lay - 8

## Canon 35

Alex Stewart, Convener of the Diocesan Buildings Committee, introduced the proposed change. The Canon, as currently worded, did not make it clear whether the curtilage of the church was included in the requirement for consent under the Canon. There was some jurisdiction for listed buildings, if the listing included the curtilage. The Diocesan Buildings Committee had always taken the view that the wording of the Canon included it, but the proposed change to the Canon, to specifically include the curtilage, would ensure proper consultation where there were proposals to make changes in churchyards or other associated areas.

## QUESTIONS

*Ted Tracey-Bower, Lay Representative, St Mary's Dalmahoy. Would the proposals require a Canon 35 consent for every new grave?*

*Alex Stewart responded that this was covered by No.6 in the exception items listed in the Canon and would not require consent.*

### **The vote of Diocesan Synod was as follows:**

**FOR: Bishop – 1; Clergy – 38; Lay – 38**

**AGAINST: Clergy – 3; Lay – 0**

**ABSTENTIONS: Clergy – 3; Lay - 4**

## CATHEDRAL ACCOUNTS

The Very Revd. John Conway, Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, presented the 2018 Cathedral Accounts. The cathedral was facing many of the same financial challenges as other churches in the diocese. There was a deficit of £90k, which was not sustainable in the long-term and the Cathedral Board was currently looking at a future strategy. The cathedral would continue to be a place of prayer at the heart of the diocese and a place for joyful gathering and praise. He looked forward to seeing many people from the diocese at the Big Sing on June 15th.

## ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Synod noted the report.

### QUESTIONS

*The Revd. Peter Harris, Rector of Dalkeith and Lasswade. He observed that there was a significant lack of training and support for safeguarding at congregational level, and that was unacceptable.*

*The Revd. Canon Dr. Marion Chatterley responded, as a member of the Provincial Safeguarding Committee. She noted that many charges had recently responded to the Provincial Safeguarding Audit, and there would be a report at the next General Synod with substantial new proposals, to include training and support. This matter was being taken extremely seriously.*

## ELECTIONS

The following were elected to current vacancies:

- The Revd. Rosie Addis – Diocesan Standing Committee

- Pamela Dugan – Diocesan Mission & Ministry Committee
- The Revd. Canon Dave Richards – General Synod
- Victoria Stock – Provincial Faith & Order Board

*It was noted that the Nomination of Ross Jesmont, to become a Lay Member of General Synod, had been withdrawn, as he was now a candidate for ordination.*

## QUESTIONS

*Canon Helen Hood, General Synod member. What would now happen with the vacancies not filled?*

*Godfrey Robson responded that the Diocesan Standing Committee would be able to consider any subsequent nominations.*

*The Dean handed the Chair back to the Bishop John*

## MISSION AND MINISTRY

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### **Diocesan Mission & Ministry Committee Annual Report**

The Revd. Dr. Sophia Marriage, Convener of The Mission & Ministry Committee, presented the report. She had taken over as Convener in January 2018, and she recorded her thanks to the Revd. Dr. Ruth Green, who had stepped down as Convener as part of her move to Aberdeen Diocese. She reminded Synod of the 5 principles from the Growing Together workshops. Many congregations had benefited from the work of The Revd. Annie Naish, as Bishops Enabler of Mission. The new A7 Centre of Mission had brought together the three charges of Galashiels, Hawick and Selkirk. The committee was exploring new ways of working in the Berwickshire charges of Coldstream, Duns & Eyemouth. There were many small-scale ways in which charges were engaging with and supporting local communities. There was the pioneering new congregation of the Mustard Seed in Edinburgh, which had been working alongside the congregation of St Margaret's, Easter Road.

The Revd. Philip Blackledge related the recent initiative within his congregation at Holy Trinity Melrose of 'Soulfulness'. It was a course of meetings which had run for six weeks, principally for non-religious members of the community, and spoke about the mindfulness of soul. Around 30 people had attended, about half of them being non-churchgoers or sporadic attenders. Further programmes were planned.

The Revd. Paul Sawrey, spoke about a Holy Week initiative at St Paul's & St George's Church in Edinburgh. A perspex crown was being installed, to hang in the main space during Holy Week. Through art and other media there would be an experience for all of the senses. There was an encouragement for people to come into the space during the days of Holy Week, to experience the installations and to reflect on the issues of Holy Week and Easter.

The Revd. Dr Sophia Marriage reported that the Mission & Ministry Committee wished to encourage congregations to let it know about their local initiatives, as well and to find ways to support them. As part of that, financial support could be given through the St Hilda's Fund.

Then followed group discussions, around the following question:

*"How do we prayerfully, consciously and intentionally make mission in all its guises the heart of our life together?"*

The Revd. Annie Naish then promoted the international initiative, at diocesan level, for '10 Days of Prayer' between Ascensiontide and Pentecost (30 May – 9 June).

Claire Benton-Evans, Diocesan Youth & Children Officer, introduced 'Creative Prayer'. There were a variety of ways to pray, according to context and place, encompassing those who learned by seeing, hearing, thinking aloud, reading & writing, doing and reflecting.

The Revd. Canon Dr. Marion Chatterley spoke of the rule of Saint Benedict, which was embraced by a group which met her Emmaus House in Edinburgh. It was based on a sense of listening, reading, meditating, contemplation and prayer. Such practices could be of use to small groups within churches during the '10 Days of Prayer'.

## BISHOP'S ENABLER OF MISSION REVIEW

The Revd. Dr. Sophia Marriage reported that The Revd. Diana Hall had been tasked with a series of consultations, to produce a discussion document for consideration by the Standing Committee. Following the discussions at Standing Committee, the matter now came to Synod for its views. It had been identified that there was a need for more training, sharing of ideas and resources, as well as provision of support for those directly delivering mission in charges. There was an emerging proposal to develop a team. Within that proposal there would be a Diocesan Director of Discipleship & Ministerial Development, on the basis of a half-time post linked to a half-time Rector post, to lead and consolidate learning for both the laity and clergy. Alongside that was the proposal for a Diocesan Director of Mission. This would be a full-time post, and would hold the position of a Canon at the Cathedral. The post would focus on 4 charges each year. The aim would be to create networks and

clusters around the diocese to share and collaborate on mission. The two roles would work in conjunction with one another to feed into the strategy, vision and priorities of the diocese. There then followed facilitated discussions around tables.

Synod recorded its thanks to The Revd. Annie Naish for her unstinting work over the past three years, which had enabled the diocese to reach this point.

#### QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

*The Revd. Willie Shaw, Rector of Bo'ness & Grangemouth. The time allowed was not long enough to get considered comments.*

*The Revd. Libby Talbot, Associate Rector, St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh. Where do these roles sit within the senior roles of the diocese in making strategic decisions?*

*The Revd. Canon Malcolm Round, Rector of St Mungo's, Balerno. He expressed great support for the Bishop's Enabler of Mission. However, such a role could not work unless Rectors also took on enough of the work themselves.*

*The Revd. Philip Blackledge, Rector of Melrose. It was essential that there was good administrative support for these posts, to free them to carry out the core work required. This would add to the cost.*

*Victoria Stock, General Synod member. As a diocese, everyone must take responsibility for mission, both clergy and lay.*

*The Revd. Canon Dr. Marion Chatterley. There was often a disparity between the specialist roles and of those in Rector posts, and the equity of remuneration was important.*

*The Revd. Dr. Sophia Marriage responded. Administrative support was essential and that was being addressed. There was a review of the current Administrative Assistant role being undertaken by the Diocesan Personnel Committee in May. It was true that the responsibility for mission was to be shared by all. In making the principal role a Canon of the Cathedral, it would embed the Bishop's mandate for this work.*

#### YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER'S REPORT

2018 had seen a focus on young people's mission activities. There had been support for Social Bite's fundraising and awareness for homelessness. Several young people participated in the 'Sleep in the Park', with associated smaller 'Wee Sleepouts' in individual churches. The sum of £2,513 had been raised for Social Bite. That put the Diocese in the Top 10 fundraisers for the event, and resulted in an invitation for two participants to attend a dinner with Malala Yousafzai. The Diocesan Play Church project continued, and it had recently visited St Cuthbert's in Colinton and St Mary's

Cathedral. The wonderful feedback received from churches which had hosted the Play Church had been posted on the diocesan website.

She then handed over to the Olivia Smith, the Provincial Youth Committee representative for the diocese.

Olivia Smith reported on the 'Creative Prayer' at the Glenalmond Provincial Youth Camp in 2018. Individual, anonymous, concerns were exchanged between delegates, and were prayed for. Various innovative ways of sharing the concerns anonymously had helped, such as using paper aeroplanes, creating angel wings and writing on pebbles. These were all ways which could be used within individual congregations.

## BISHOPS ENABLER OF MISSION REPORT

The Revd. Annie Naish spoke of the participation in the Social Bite 'Sleep in the Park'. Bishop John had been interviewed for later broadcast on the BBC's Songs of Praise programme. The participation represented the diocese, as well as raising funds. She thanked all of the churches which had invited her to work with them over the past three years, which had been a huge privilege. She then took the opportunity to introduce the Revd. Simon Cake, the new Lead Evangelist for the A7 Charges, which had been a significant long-term project in its creation.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Revd. Dr. Sophia Marriage then introduced the new Convener of the committee, the Revd. Tim Tunley. Through the Committee, he was looking to nurture the links with the three companion dioceses, and to encourage the links between individual charges with overseas partners.

**The motion that synod approved the reports of the Mission & Ministry Committee and its pendant committees was proposed by The Revd. Dr. Sophia Marriage and seconded by The Revd. Christine Barclay. This was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## DEAN'S REPORT

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The Very Revd. Francis Burberry reported on her year. In April she had spent time with St Fillan's church in Edinburgh, and learned about the extensive use of its

buildings within its community. In May she travelled to Oban for the Installation of the new Provost. In June, the General Synod gathered, and was reminded of wearing black on Thursdays, to declare being part of a global movement. St Vincent's Chapel in Edinburgh launched several events as the first Edinburgh Festival of Sacred Arts in August. There had been 16 visitations in 2018, including Eyemouth, where she saw the recent refurbishment of the church and the building of a new extension. She had then attended the consecration of Bishop Ian Paton in the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane. In January 2019 she had spent time at the Church of England's Archdeacons Biennial Conference. Last month, it had been a joy to attend the Consecration of Bishop Kaisa Hintikka, the second woman to be elected to serve as Bishop in the Church of Finland.

Bishop John wished his thanks to be recorded for the seen and unseen work that Dean Frances had undertaken during a very busy year as Dean.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Revd. David Paton-Williams raised a matter from the Edinburgh East Area Council. There was a request to consider a standing item of Matters Arising from the minutes at the Diocesan Synod. This would allow reporting back on issues and work from previous Synod meetings.

Bishop John stated that this matter would be considered by the Standing Committee.

Bishop John wished his thanks to be recorded to Simon Filsell and his team at the Diocesan Office, and to the Events Team at St Paul's & St George's, for their hard work in preparing for and running the meeting.

**The Bishop confirmed the Acts of Synod**