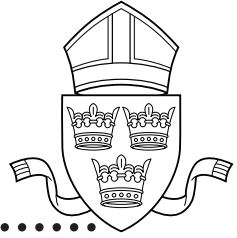


Diocesan Synod Report



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Opening Worship

The Synod began with a short service of the word, reflecting on Columba, sixth-century missionary to Scotland, and Ephrem, fourth-century teacher and hymn writer.

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Report from Bishop's Council

A motion was carried to amend the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance's Memorandum of Association. This will allow subsidiary companies to be set up.

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Questions under SO 41

1) *Sharing the Footprint*: Could alternative-energy sources be

used in parsonage houses? These sources are not currently viable. There are minimum performance standards for houses, e.g. insulation, heating. Use of grey water is being considered.

2) *Trumpington*: Would costs of the proposed tribunal affect the cost of ministry share?

The Bishop has issued a statement, which is available on the diocesan website www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/media/announcements/details.html?id=88

The Finance Committee is aware of the situation; there would be no immediate or significant impact on ministry share.



9 June 2007

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Presidential Address

Bishop John spoke about the good things happening in the Diocese: 2009 Celebrations, Fresh Expressions, Authorised Lay Ministry (70 candidates 2006-7), upward trend in candidates for ordination. Local ministry – ‘people getting on with pastoral care and good works’.

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Diocesan Board of Finance

In 2006 there was a deficit of £102k, following a surplus of £35k in 2005.

Income has increased by 2.5%, but expenditure has increased by 4.5%. A good use of resources has been to let houses, which has brought in £233k.

There has been an increase in the number of deaneries paying 100% of ministry share payments. The Diocese appreciates the efforts of deaneries to pay in full. It is important to develop a culture of 100% payment.

The Diocese will be unable to save on stipends over the next few years, as there has been an increase in the number of

curates. The budget should be back on track by 2010.

The motions to adopt the report and accounts, and appoint Chater Allen LLP as auditors were carried. Thanks were expressed to Hugh Duberly and the Finance Committee.

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Annual Report and Diocesan Expenditure 2008

There will be an increase in pension contributions (39% of net stipends).

There has been an increase in the number of candidates coming forward for ordination training, many of these are NSMs.

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Ely 900 Celebrations

2009 will see the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the diocese of Ely. The Ven. **Hugh McCurdy** introduced a presentation by various speakers on this topic.

The Revd **Sue Wyatt** quoted from Hebrews 13.8, that we would be giving thanks to God for his faithfulness, and the faithful witness of his people over the last 900 years; then looking forward and building into the future.

Celebration together: Events could include the following: major services/events in the cathedral; selection of liturgies; Rave in the Nave 2009; schools' work – October School days; world mission; environmental group; Mothers' Union; chaplaincy to people at work; Cathedral Diocesan Flower Festival; RSCM festival; promotional material – badges, bookmarks; Clergy Conference.

Peter Meadows will write a history of the Diocese. The Diocese's 900th anniversary coincides with Cambridge University's 800th anniversary, and there will be some linked events.

Parish mission initiative: appropriate to context; will make a difference; will build into the future; to help resource this – MAP; may link with Fresh Expressions

As each parish marks the anniversary so the Diocese celebrates and builds.

Parishes are encouraged to be generous with their ideas, these can be shared on the 900 Celebrations website.

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Fresh Expressions

The Revd **Dave Male**, Fresh Expressions adviser, said that approximately one-third of the parishes in the Diocese are involved in a 'Fresh Expression'. Fresh expressions of church have been part of the missionary movement of the Church over the last 2000 years. They are a form of church for a changing culture, primarily for the benefit of people not yet members of the church. A training day is planned in Peterborough on 22 September 2007.

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Mission Action Plans (MAP)

The Ven. **Hugh McCurdy**, Canon **Les Oglesby** spoke about Mission Action Plans. What is God calling us to do?

Parishes will be asked to identify a couple of initiatives for the future. How will we get to where we want to go? These can build on where parishes are already.

This will build on the work of the All Good Gifts Report?: Pray about how to go forward; Assess where we are, dream dreams, set priorities; Give thanks for the resources we have, pray for those that we need.

Sharing more effectively in the mission of God, being light and life in the world.

A resource has just been published by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland for helping local churches think through the process of planning for mission. Tennens, Terry (ed.) (2007) *Journey into Growth: The Seven Core Values of a Mission Church*, London: Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (Centre for Mission Accompaniment)

There will be presentations in each archdeaconry: *Sharing in God's Mission*. 22 September (Huntingdon & Wisbech Archdeaconry); 13 October (Cambridge Archdeaconry).

During the discussion after the presentations, the following comments were made.

Some parts of the current Diocese did not become so until the 19th Century.

It was asked if there could be a lay conference as well as a clergy one, or possibly a joint one.

The Diocese is working ecumenically to be a presence in new communities.

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This report compiled by Synod member David Neate and edited by Simon Kershaw is an unofficial record of events. The official minutes are circulated to members of the Synod later.

