



**Ely Diocesan Synod
Witchford College, 7 June 2008**

Presidential Address. The new Bishop of Huntingdon (Ven. David Thomson) will be consecrated on Thursday 3 July at Southwark Cathedral. David Thomson has experience of urban and rural ministry, and cathedral life. He will move to Ely Diocese in August and start duties in September.



There was a successful launch for Mission Action Planning (MAP) in Ely Cathedral on 17 April. The key speaker was Canon Robert Warren. Thanks to Ven. Hugh McCurdy for organising the event.



Plans for Ely 900 celebrations are progressing. The Archbishop of Canterbury will visit in January 2009, the Archbishop of York will visit in November 2009. <http://www.ely.anglican.org/900/>



This year's Bishop's Lent Appeal, for The Leprosy Mission, raised nearly £17,000. Thank you to all who contributed. <http://www.leprosymission.org.uk>

Canon David Pritchard is now Vice Dean and Canon Precentor of Ely Cathedral.



The Lambeth Conference will be taking place from 16 July to 4 August. Please pray for the conference, and those attending. <http://www.lambethconference.org>

Business of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). Hugh Duberly
Deficit for 2007 was worse than had been expected - £418,000, this was mainly due to being over budget on stipends, a shortfall in ministry share payments, an increase in pension contributions, and paying interest to Church Commissioners. Expectations of parishes meeting ministry share payments is good. The budget should be back in line over the next 3 years.

The following motions were carried:

- i) That this Synod adopt the Report and Accounts of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance for the year ended 31 December 2007
- ii) To appoint Chater Allen LLP as auditors for 2008.

Report on the Review of Ministry Share Formula. Dr Matthew Lavis
Data will be based on previous 2 years, to reduce year-to-year fluctuations
A question was asked about the costing of curates. If parishes could afford the cost of a curate, could they be asked to make a contribution towards this cost?
The placement of curates should be independent of a parish's ability to pay.

The following motions were carried:

- i) Calculation of Ministry Share will be based on 2 previous years of actual payments.
- ii) Damping will be removed from the formula, but capping will be retained.

Annual Report and Diocesan Expenditure for 2009. Dr Matthew Lavis

Approximately 80% of diocesan expenditure is on parish ministry.

The two challenges are the increase in pension contributions, and the number of stipends. The latter needs to balance present and future ministry.

71% of diocesan income comes from Ministry Share contributions.

Fair Trade Diocese. Ben and Pauline Jupp, and Canon Alan Hargrave



Fairtrade is about people, and it guarantees a better deal for Third World producers. Fairtrade has grown since the late 1970s and there are now over 3000 fairtrade products (including communion wine!) in shops. One of the main benefits is agreed and stable prices, which is essential for planning. A premium is also paid towards social and environmental projects. God has a heart for the poor and to uphold justice for the oppressed.

There are already 15 fairtrade dioceses. The aim is for Ely to become a fairtrade diocese as well. There are 5 criteria to fulfil, for this to happen, including: support and promote fairtrade across the diocese, internal and external fairtrade publicity, and at least 50% of churches to be fairtrade churches. More details will be sent out in the autumn.

Fairtrade offers justice to the vulnerable (Prov 31v8), it is part of the UN Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>), it offers ethical consumerism, and supports local farming.

For more information visit: www.fairtrade.org.uk or Telephone: 020 7405 5942



The motion was carried unanimously and enthusiastically:

This Synod agrees that, to coincide with our 900th anniversary celebrations, Ely strive to become a Fairtrade Diocese before the end of 2009.

Other News



There was a Mother's Union stall, with information leaflets and cards.

<http://www.themothersunion.org>

