



SUPPORTING PAPERS

**DIOCESAN SYNOD
ON 10th NOVEMBER 2018**



SUPPORTING PAPERS FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2018

INDEX

PAGES

1	Agenda item 2: The Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work
2	Agenda item 5: Planning for the Future
3-4	Agenda item 6: Report from General Synod
5	Agenda item 7: Report on the Bishop's Council

CHICHESTER DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

FSW – A SECRET TO SHARE

Who are we?

128-year-old independent member of the Diocesan family – FSW is serving the common good, engaging, empowering, and enabling families who struggle. Helping them to thrive and grow.

What do we do?

In 2017/18 FSW with 7 Practitioners (5FTE) supported 298 families referred to us by schools, churches, GPs, Health Visitors, Social Services, other voluntary organisations and families themselves.

From September 2018 a team of 11 Family Practitioners work with families who face one or more of the following challenges: poor housing, parents with mental health issues, special educational needs, low paid employment, ill health, domestic or sexual abuse, exclusion from school, children with autistic spectrum conditions, food shortages, marriage or relationship break down, inability to heat the home, rural isolation, and loneliness.

Playwork team - running activity days, after school clubs, drop-ins, 1-1 play activities building or rebuilding relationships, healthy eating and budgeting classes and special support groups for multiple families facing the same challenges.

Practical help - we run our own food bank and toy bank, assist with the provision of school uniforms, white goods, holidays (thanks to the MU!) days out, panto trips and Christmas in a box (free range Sussex turkey too!).

As at 9/10/18 the 2018/19 figures show FSW supporting 206 families; 326 children.

In the last 12 months:

- 280 families have taken part in group activities
- 85 families have received family or individual sessions from Playworkers.
- we have delivered over 2000 food parcels
- 32 families have been on holiday

Where do we do it?

Rural team - in the deaneries of Storrington, Arundel and Bognor, Cuckfield, East Grinstead, Uckfield, Rotherfield

Coastal team- in Bognor, Worthing, Telscombe Cliffs to Seaford, Eastbourne and St Leonards & Hastings

Urban team - Crawley, Coldean and Haywards Heath

Play activity - in Midhurst, Portslade and Lewes

Why do we do it?

As Christians are we not there to support those who need us regardless of their faith?

Martin Auton-Lloyd

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:
DIOCESAN STRATEGY BEYOND 2020

Bishop Richard will give a brief review of the strategy so far and present some of our initial thoughts about developing it into the next quinquennium.

There will be opportunity for questions and comment.

GENERAL SYNOD REPORT for July 6th – 10th 2018

A personal view from Andrew Cornes

Is it worthwhile for the Church's General Synod to address issues of national importance? Does the Government pay any attention to the Church's views? The encouraging news is: It is worthwhile and the Government does (sometimes!) pay attention. For example, General Synod recently passed a motion urging the Government to reduce the maximum stake at Fixed Odds Betting Terminals from £100 to £2. This is now Government policy.

We must hope that the Government and businesses will act on the three motions of national interest which July's General Synod passed:

- On **Nuclear Weapons**, Synod urged the Government not only to reaffirm its commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons but to work for their gradual elimination from our own, and other nations', arsenals.
- On the **National Health Service**, Synod expressed deep gratitude for the first 70 years of the NHS; asked the Government to provide adequate social care for the elderly and for rural communities and to set up a Royal Commission (free of short-term party political considerations) to make recommendations about long-term funding; and committed the Church itself to care for the elderly and the vulnerable
- On **Climate Change**, Synod asked the Church's National Investing Bodies to disinvest by 2023 from fossil fuel companies that are not willing to align their policies with a maximum rise in global average temperature of 2 degrees C.

Internal Church issues were of course also discussed:

- On **Safeguarding**, Synod acknowledged that the Church had made enormous progress over these last years but said that we still have some way to go before every member of the Church is fully committed to safeguarding, and that we must listen to, and learn, from survivors of abuse.
- On **Cathedrals**, Synod welcomed a Report that would abolish Cathedral Councils and re-form a Senior Executive Team for Cathedrals with a Vice-Chair drawn from outside the Cathedral. These, and other, recommendations were disputed by some and the suggested changes will be further refined in the months ahead.
- On the **National Church Budget**, the amount set aside for Training for Ministry has significantly increased to over £17 million, to cater for the 19% higher number of men and women entering ordination training in 2017, a welcome upturn which is expected to increase further.

Perhaps the most significant time at July's General Synod was the afternoon of Seminars and Workshops, most of them to do with what has now been renamed '**Living in love and faith, the Bishops' Teaching and Learning Document on human identity, sexuality and marriage**'. Five different groups – six if you include the Pastoral Advisory Group – are contributing to this, and the Document is due out in 2020, just before the Lambeth Conference.

The Seminars were an opportunity to be updated on how much progress the different groups have made so far, and the Workshops encouraged General Synod members to express their hopes and fears about the whole process.

I can only give a personal view: most of the groups don't appear to have got very far yet. This is perhaps understandable but means that a large amount of careful work needs to be done in the next 12-18 months. The fear is that this will be mainly a 'mapping' document: clear in not changing the Church's doctrine of marriage as between one man and one woman but only expressing alternative views when it comes to homosexual relationships more generally. If so, we will only know more clearly what we are aware of already.

I don't envy the House of Bishops, but it is their God-given responsibility to teach. It will need immense courage to state clearly what the Church's teaching about homosexual relationships should be, and doubtless the Bishops will be attacked from all sides if they say anything definite. But increasing numbers of young potential ordinands are asking whether they have any future in the Church of England and so are turning instead to ministry in other denominations.

On such an important issue in today's society, the Church must speak with a clear voice, for the sake of Christians of homosexual orientation who need help in being obedient to the God whom they love and for the sake of our witness to a world which may or may not like what the Church must in faithfulness say. I'm glad we have Bishops, and I'm glad I'm not one!

It was a pity that the pressure of business squeezed out an important debate on **Evangelism** in England today. But the Archbishop of York gave a superb sermon on the Sunday in York Minster, urging us all to talk with others about our faith in Christ, whenever the opportunity arises. And the House of Bishops has produced a significant and courageous statement on the importance of Planting New Churches in today's secular Britain.

The Revd Canon Andrew Cornes

BISHOP'S COUNCIL REPORT

Since the last Diocesan Synod the Bishop's Council has met twice – in July and October.

The Council acts as the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod tasked with a number of responsibilities as laid down in the relevant standing orders. The Council has other responsibilities with regard to the Diocesan Board of Finance.

At the July meeting the Council received the report from the Apostolic Life department. It looked at the gender balance between candidates for ordination amongst other things. There was a good debate and a vote of thanks to the acting director of the department.

There was also a long debate on the Diocesan finances and the demands on the budget against the parishes' ability to pay. The Council debated making repairs to clergy dwellings on a 7 rather than a 5-year cycle, while making sure that essential works would have immediate effect and that old dwellings be considered differently.

The Council agreed that with regard to vacancies in parishes it would not have a deliberate long vacancies procedure to save money but would always seek to fill vacancies as soon as possible.

The Council discussed Strategic Development funding (SDF). There is a struggle to conform to template and expectations. The three present projects were running well but further bids would be put on hold.

The Council has to consider appropriate complaints and one such matter was dealt with at the Council and an appropriate letter was sent.

The Council also considered matters such as policies, the trustee role description, safeguarding update and GDPR update.

At the October Council meeting there was a presentation from the DAC. It is an energised board which has reached double the number of parishes in recent years. It is now very much seen as a friend to help get things done rather than a foe. It is helpful at any new development in a parish to invite the DAC at the idea's moment rather than at the end of the process.

An update was given on the migration of the diocesan IT provision and the change of accounting software, due to go on line on November 1st.

Consideration was given to future strategic mission projects, and the Council looked at how it could fund such schemes with appropriate safeguards for the money.

There was a report from the remuneration committee and a discussion about the Order of St Richard in recognising lay ministry in parishes.

The Council considered the risk assessment for the Diocese including such things as safeguarding and parish share.

The Revd Canon Mark Gilbert