

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH DIOCESAN SYNOD,  
HELD AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, HORSHAM AND ON ZOOM ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

PRESENT:	The Bishop (President)	
(in person or	Suffragan Bishops	2
on Zoom)	Clergy	58 (TBC)
	Laity	54 (TBC)

Miss Gabrielle Higgins (Diocesan Secretary)  
Mr Darren Oliver (Diocesan Registrar)

The meeting began with an act of worship.

**1. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

The Bishop of Chichester gave a Presidential Address, speaking to the attached paper in relation to the vision for 2025, the 950th anniversary of the foundation of Diocesan Mission on the Chichester site, and the years leading up to it.

**2. WORKING TOWARDS CARBON NET ZERO**

The Bishop of Lewes (+WL) thanked everyone who had been involved, particularly Revd Debbie Beer the self-supporting environment officer, and the environmental group chaired by the Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes, for the work they do to respond to the environmental crisis around us.

+WL remembered that at the Glastonbury Festival 2019 the biggest crowd, 240,000 people, was drawn for Sir David Attenborough, at 93 years old. Environmental concern had grown hugely as seen with our own eyes, the damage we are inflicting on our own home. It points us to the God who created the world and called us to be good stewards of our common home. It is our responsibility to reduce carbon, reduce plastic use and reduce reliance on fossil fuels: it was easy for that priority to slip down a list of urgent priorities. This motion was about addressing these as a diocese, where there was currently no paid resource.

The very bold target to be carbon neutral by 2030 was a call to make the changes we need to show we are good stewards and we can be taken seriously by those looking at the response of the whole household of faith. If we keep moving forward in the right direction, these targets help us with a focus, whether or not we achieve it, they keep our mind upon them. They help us address these complicated areas. The milestone areas: in each of those areas there were subsections, trying to plot these things we need to be aware of and change. The three areas of focus in this motion: churches, schools and clergy housing which needed action to effectually reduce our carbon output as a church.

What we are hoping for in the second part of this motion is a post to fund a focused project manager role to plan, equip and coordinate timescales working with property, education and the DAC parts of our common life. These were the largest areas where a real difference could be made in reducing our carbon footprint. This post might be shared with another diocese and we may be able to part fund it from funds from the national church. Today approval was requested to put a sum into the PMC budget before coming back with the job description and costings.

Lesley Hurst, Assistant Director of Education (Business Development), reported that there were over 4700 Christian schools in the country. Schools produced 52% of the Church of England's carbon emissions. The diocese had significant control. The government funding for voluntary aided schools was for keeping schools safe, dry and open. It could not cover decarbonising schools. There was no source of funding for this. Schools could apply for funding which was available to all public sector buildings including hospitals and schools. The intention was to put in a bid. In order stand a chance of success a heat decarbonisation plan was needed. This had been explored by Lesley Lynn alongside the Education team. There were 49 VA schools and 14 academies across the diocese. We propose to work with the Diocese of Blackburn who had already done a study of their schools. The information to be collated would help with a bid for the government funding for decarbonisation of the schools.

Scott Ralph, Property Director, spoke of the current position in relation to parsonage houses. The required Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) would become much more stringent in the near future: a minimum score of C and possibly B would likely be required. It may not be possible to let or sell property without raising the EPC grade. Similarly, the DBF should not expect clergy to live in property that was not possible to let. On average parsonages were grade D. The DBF needed the funds produced from property sales and rentals and therefore needed to ensure that work progressed in time so that sales and lettings were not prohibited. There was a need to understand green technology, what was effective and what was not and to know the true costs. The plan was to do sampling projects, to look at a 1960s vicarage with a gas boiler and understand the costs and monitor it for a year and see what the gains are, one in oil fired systems, one more, to run 3 projects to better understand the true cost of increasing energy efficiency. There was a dearth of information relating to domestic properties to give us information to help us budget for the future.

Mr Gordon Marsden (153 Brighton Deanery) felt that all the proposals were urgent but nuanced. The proposals for church schools he thought were excellent. Another powerful resource were the pupils in the schools: he would like to look at how to get MPs to go into schools. It was often the children themselves that put pressure on their parents. The heat pump issue was urgent but there was a cost. He thought the pilot study should go ahead and hoped in the autumn HM Treasury would provide assistance.

The Archdeacon of Hastings, The Venerable Dr Edward Dowler 7 (ED) commented that in the background to the motions was the CofE's 2030 arbitrary target passed by General Synod with less than perfect consideration of the consequences. ED did not personally feel the diocese should be bound by it but with the funding made available to support it he felt it should not be disowned entirely. ED was reluctantly in favour of the first motion. ED felt we should try to reduce carbon emissions in schools, parsonages and churches. New technology was being developed which would allow this to be done over time. ED felt the diocese should be cautious about investing in immature technology for heating schools and clergy homes, because of the great cost and because it may not work very well. Severe health and missional problems would be caused by refrigerating our people. At a time of great pressure on both personal and parish finances he could not support a new central post in the diocese. Such a post would include not only the salary and pension but also the budget he or she would need and administrative support. It was currently un-costed and the scope unknown. ED felt the remit of the post was too multifaceted to amount to a coherent job description. ED felt it would be better to have contingency in the budget so that where necessary those officers responsible for schools and parsonages could draw in help when needed. ED supported all the motions except for the funding for a paid post to help the diocesan property, education and DAC departments.

The Revd Jane Willis, Hurst Deanery 127 (JW) commented that big old Edwardian rectories cost a lot to heat, even with double glazing. An architect had come up with a proposal for building an eco-rectory. This could be rolled out throughout the diocese. Selling the rectory for £1m would provide funds. JW asked whether there would be the potential to think bigger about some of the diocese's older church properties.

The Very Revd Lee Duckett Battle and Bexhill Deanery 73 (LD) had looked at how to lower fuel costs for those living in poverty and installing solar panels on churches and schools. LD suggested speaking to 'Energise Sussex Coast' and offered to make referrals. LD commented that Southwark diocese had a scheme to sell off big vicarages and build eco-vicarages in their place. LD echoed ED's views and felt cautious about approving the post without more detailed costs and scope of the role.

+WL commented that everything was still up for grabs as far as clergy housing was concerned; he hoped a targeted role looking at environmental issues would help to link up and knit together the work between different departments. +WL compared this to the SDF projects where Stuart Britton the project manager oversaw all the different aspects to ensure the projects held together as a whole and was key in the success of the projects so far.

+MC explained that under Standing Order 41, the motion would be divided into four sections:-

The Bishop of Lewes moved that:

1. This Synod supports the Church of England's milestone objectives for achieving net carbon zero by 2030 as articulated in the National Church's Environment Survey submitted in February 2022.

The motion was PASSED.

In favour: 90

Against: 4

Abstentions: 14

The Bishop of Lewes moved that:

2. This Synod further supports the inclusion in the diocesan budget for 2023 of funding for a paid post that will help the diocesan property, education and DAC departments work towards this end.

The motion FAILED.

In favour: 43

Against: 50

Abstentions: 17

The Bishop of Lewes moved that:

3. This Synod further supports the commitment of up to £150,000 from the Pastoral Fund to fund Heat Decarbonisation Plans for Voluntary Aided Schools.

The motion was PASSED.

In favour: 97  
Against: 4  
Abstentions: 7

The Bishop of Lewes moved that:

4. This Synod further supports the commitment of up to £100,000 from the Pastoral Fund to procure Energy Performance Certificates for all parsonages and fund pilot projects to make parsonages more energy efficient.

The motion was PASSED.

In favour: 100  
Against: 2  
Abstentions: 7

+MC concluded that this remained urgent work and thanked those involved for excellent presentations.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHICHESTER DIOCESAN FUND AND BOARD OF FINANCE (INCORPORATED)**

#### **3. ETHICAL INVESTMENT**

Mrs Lesley Lynn, Chair of the Finance Committee (LL). LL explained that this motion would be voted on as a single motion which would not be divided.

LL explained that she spoke to this motion as chair of the Assets Committee which had responsibility for managing a portfolio of investments and reviewed property investments whilst relying on SR in relation to information about the latter. Four different investment management companies were instructed to manage the liquid assets, each of whom had a slightly different mandate. The members of the Assets Committee were not climate change deniers. LL had worked to bring the previous motions to Synod and was happy that 1, 3, and 4 were passed. The Assets Committee members were all concerned about the environment and had different views about the best way to tackle the crisis. The Assets Committee view was that an affordable supply of energy was needed today whilst moving to a much lower carbon future and that some publicly traded fossil fuel companies were part of that future. They were transitioning. The Assets Committee believed that some of the fossil fuel companies were on a transition pathway and therefore it would continue to have some investments in fossil fuel companies. The Assets Committee had made it clear that the DBF would not invest in coal and tar sands and would not invest in those fossil fuel companies that had not promoted a strategy of transition.

The DBF held no investments in Exxon. The Assets Committee had taken the view that engagement with transitioning fossil fuel companies was a better way forward in terms of producing the types of change that were so needed rather than divestment. Divestment achieved the opposite of what divestment advocates wanted to achieve. There was evidence that engagement with fossil fuel companies works. The CofE's National Investing Bodies' (NIB's) experience was that engagement worked. At Exxon's general meeting, through pressure from environmentally concerned shareholders, three environmentally concerned directors were voted on to the board of directors. By contrast, divestment took the shares out of the hands of concerned investors and was likely to put the shares into the hands of those

who would pressure the directors to pump fossil fuels harder and faster. Investors who worked through concern groups were making fossil fuel companies pay attention. The Assets Committee would continue to invest in those companies that were on the right path. The NIB analysis had decided to divest in certain fossil fuel companies because they didn't believe they were on the right transition pathway to tackle global warming. The DBF held two major investments, in BP and Shell. The DBF invested in American Diversified Energy, a fossil fuel company focussed specifically on ways to reduce the methane in the extraction of fossil fuels which spent money to develop technologies to take methane out of the environment. Of all the emissions methane was the most damaging. They were helping other larger companies by investing in ways to take the methane out.

In January the NIBs said BP were not any longer on the NIB approved portfolio as the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) considered BP were not on the pathway to transition to below 1.5 degrees of global warming. However, it seemed to LL that BP were on a better trajectory and were moving faster than Shell to transition. BP had made a commitment not to exploit new oilfields whereas Shell had not. LL explained that the TPI did valuable detailed work analysing companies' commitment and progress towards transition.

LL explained that BP had not been approved by the TPI because of the number of its trades in oil. LL pointed out that one cargo of oil in a tanker up to Rotterdam may change hands 2, 3 or 4 times on its journey but that was still one tanker of oil. LL believed it was not fair or sensible to say that each time it was traded that it added to the carbon in the atmosphere. M&G looked at carbon footprint and carbon output and their analysis was that BP was on a faster and clearer track to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees. The Assets Committee proposed keeping the BP investment for another year and to look again to see if it was outside the 1.5 degree target. The investment in BP was just over £1m and Shell was just under £800k.

Mr Gordon Marsden 153 Brighton Deanery (GM) agreed with what LL said but pointed out that most of the decisions had been made in January and referred to the quote 'when the facts change I change my mind'. GM pointed out that between January and now the whole issue particularly in the context of Ukraine had enriched companies like BP very strongly. GM was not calling on the Assets Committee to disinvest in BP but he was uneasy about giving BP another eight months grace when oil companies were making windfall profits. He suggested the Assets Committee reconsiders the data from January 2022 and put further pressure on BP and communicate that given the windfall profits BP needed to do more in terms of transition otherwise the DBF would disinvest.

The Revd Nicole Kinrade 108 Cuckfield Deanery believed oil would be needed in the future not only for energy but in the production of plastics and felt the way forward was to continue to commit to have a voice at the table. She emphasised the need to more actively push for faster change and investment in new technologies.

John Booth 171 Arundel & Bognor Deanery, member of the Assets Committee, commented that BP and Shell were among the best performing stocks and would provide the funding for the previous motion. He felt it was important to take a longer and more nuanced view and supported the motion.

LL agreed that oil companies had made profits following the surge in prices after the invasion of the Ukraine. LL was not sure what the DBF could do about that but if the government implemented a windfall tax she would support it.

Mrs Lesley Lynn, Chair moved that “This Synod affirms that care for God’s creation is foundational to the Christian gospel and central to the church’s mission and, recognising (a) the importance of working towards a future which does not depend on fossil fuels; (b) the need to both develop alternative energy supplies and reduce the demand for energy before freedom from fossil fuels can be achieved; and (c) the central role that large energy companies have to play in developing alternative energy supplies, commits to divesting from any company which does not meet the climate hurdles set by the National Investment Bodies using Transition Pathway Initiative data, except that disinvestment in BP will be postponed until the NIBs’ next assessment, expected in January 2023, and implemented only if it does not then meet the climate hurdles, and further commits to reviewing its divestment strategy in May 2023.”

The motion was PASSED.

In favour: 89

Against: 10

Abstentions: 8

#### **4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 ACCOUNTS**

Mrs Lesley Lynn spoke to the accounts as Chair of the Finance Committee. LL reported that slightly more parish share had been received than had been budgeted in what was another year of pandemic. LL expressed thanks from all of the DBF for the faithful generosity and sacrifice made by PCCs across Sussex as they continued to pay parish share despite immense challenges. LL emphasised that this was very gratefully received. LL commented that both property and liquid investments had performed better than expected and there was less expenditure due to the pandemic so overall there was a lower loss than anticipated.

Mrs Lesley Lynn (Chair) to move “That the Annual Accounts and report of the DBF for 2021 be received”.

The motion was PASSED by a show of hands.

The Bishop of Chichester thanked LL for her oversight and to the Accounts team for these accounts and gave enormous thanks to parishes for their support for the diocese’s primary mission.

#### **5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

Mrs Lesley Lynn (Chair) to move “That Haysmacintyre LLP, Chartered Accountants, be re-appointed as auditors of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting”.

The motion was PASSED by a show of hands.

#### **6. ADJUSTMENT OF PARISH MINISTRY COSTS (pages 3-9 of the supporting papers)**

The Bishop of Horsham (+RH) spoke to the paper. +RH commented that PMC was simply an expression of the average cost of providing a parish with clergy. The diocese did not operate a quota system to take into account differences between parishes. PMC attempts to express as accurately as possible the average cost of providing clergy. PMC was voluntary and not a bill. It was an extraordinary system of voluntary contribution across a huge household of diverse worshipping communities.

The reason for the first proposal was due to the growth in the number of parishes appointing associate vicars. Two different ways of calculating PMC for associate vicars had developed. The disparity was illogical and somewhat unfair. The proposal was designed to bring the two different calculations into one method for greater clarity and fairness, broadly the two methods would meet in the middle.

PMC increases over recent years had disproportionately negatively affected house for duty parishes in an extraordinary way. The element of PMC that accounted for housing costs was the one that was rising very steeply and house for duty posts were harder hit by that proportionately than others. Full time stipendiary parishes had seen a 10% rise in four years, whereas the rise for house for duty was 25%. It was therefore proposed to address this by rebalancing PMC. +RH confirmed that those parishes most affected had been consulted.

The Revd Rory Graham 80 Dallington Deanery (RG) asked about the criteria for the appointment of associate vicars. He felt like a turkey voting for Christmas. He was an associate vicar and the parish treasurer informed him that he was going to cost the parish a lot more next year. He commented that 'we find money for the things that we love and that we are passionate about'. He was passionate about full time ordained ministry which he believed was a gift and a blessing to the people of God. He felt sad that ministry placed increased burdens on communities that were struggling to contribute fully and fairly to the life of the wider household of faith. He supported the motions but did so with a heavy heart due to the burden on parishes.

+RH thanked RG and emphasised that we are all great believers in stipendiary ministry and with this motion we are in no way wanting to communicate a loss of faith in the value of associate vicars. The criteria for the appointment of associate vicars was complex and was on a case by case basis, usually it was larger parishes whose financial circumstances meant they could afford associate vicars and sometimes SDF funding had made such appointments possible. +RH would love to be in a position that the appointment of associate vicars was primarily dictated by missional need which was vast and unending across the diocese.

The Bishop of Horsham moved that:

"That Parish Ministry Costs be adjusted by removing the share of parish support and national church costs for the C2 category of Associate Vicars and by abolishing the CB category and including all Associate Vicars within C2"

The motion was PASSED with a show of hands

In favour: 90

Against: 2

Abstentions: 10

The Bishop of Horsham moved that:

"That Parish Ministry Costs be adjusted by including a half share of the training element for house for duty posts instead of a full share".

The motion was PASSED with a show of hands

In favour: 93

Against: 1

Abstentions: 5

## **MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD**

The Bishop introduced the NHS lead chaplains: Revd Simon Hobbs, Revd Rachel Bennett and Revd Joanna Elliott.

### **7. PRESENTATION by NHS lead chaplains**

Revd Simon Hobbs introduced the presentation. He covered Sussex and bit of Hampshire. Statistically there would be 100,000 people in Sussex receiving care for mental health issues and around 30,000 on the electoral roll receiving mental health care. There were 2 chaplains. This was about to leap up to 2.8. Chaplains looked after patients, staff and carers and their role is to: sit alongside patients and advise staff on spiritual experience and mental health; encourage a spiritual role in recovery; and advocate for patients' and people's spiritual experiences which could sometimes be considered pathologies and seen as part of a problem. Chaplains stick up for them. Chaplains are paid for and employed by a secular organisation which can create tensions. Part of the changing nature of chaplaincy was that they work generically whatever someone's religion; they spend time with them and may refer them to someone of their own faith community. Faith communities were often the first port of call for those with mental health issues. Churches were protective against mental health issues - they protected against anxiety and on the whole helped people to live longer by 4-7 years. It was important to work alongside faith communities.

Revd Rachel Bennett and Revd Joanna Elliott explained they were in an acute setting. They were joint leads. They looked back over the last 2-3 years and the impact Covid had and continued to have on their service as chaplains but also on the NHS and its staff. They looked at how to collaborate with parishes and churches and how to benefit from each other's experience and skills.

The chaplains role was to be a welcoming presence for patients and visitors and staff. The individual wanted to be heard and respected whatever their faith or belief and to discover signs of hope and encouragement. Sometimes this took the form of religious rites. Chaplains had been allowed to remain within the hospital. The use of PPE had been challenging. Touch had been through silicon gloves and everything had been distanced; there were times when chaplains relied on remote ways of giving spiritual care. One nurse at the bedside of a patient who was dying had been asked whether she would be prepared to form the sign of the cross on the patient. That nurse had felt proud to be part of the patient's spiritual journey as well as the physical one.

The Bishop of Chichester (+MC) thanked the chaplains for their powerful accounts. +MC spoke about remembering those we have loved and lost in particular services and anniversaries. +MC asked for prayers as we work for the cure of souls. +MC prayed for the work of the NHS chaplains. This was followed by a round of applause for the chaplains.

### **8. APOSTOLIC PARTNERSHIPS: a presentation by the Director for Apostolic Life.**

+MC introduced the Revd Ben Sleep and explained that Revd Canon Rebecca Swyer, Director of Apostolic Life, was unable to attend.

The Revd Ben Sleep (BS) gave a presentation. He had started a partnership in Eastbourne St Johns Meads joined with St Michaels. He was excited about what apostolic partnerships could offer in many contexts across different traditions. This was done without any SDF funding so there were no hoops to jump through. This was generously supported by St Johns who would contribute to the increased parish share at St Michaels for 3 years.



St Johns was an evangelical church. St Michaels was a traditional Anglo Catholic church and underwent charismatic revival in the 1990s. It had been a wonderful God given opportunity to work with St Michaels: identifying who we were as a church and what God was calling us to do. Last November he was licensed by Bishop Martin. At the start there was a congregation of 30-35 which was now over 100. There was a youth leader and musicians; they had been praying for their finances and had seen giving increase and the resources increase. Partnerships worked well because it involved thinking outside the box in terms of how to grow God's church. It offered the opportunity to try something different and the opportunity to fail. If God can take those failures and use them for his glory and his good that opened doors.

+RH spoke about Strategic Development Funding (SDF) and the work that was being done to ensure the diocese could benefit from this source of funding. The successful bid in Brighton and Hove involved working with St Peter's Brighton and All Saints Hove to develop the St Peter's family of churches and the planting, grafting and revitalising work across the city. All Saints Hove was being developed as a catholic resource church, not to create a huge church at All Saints, but to create teams of ministry that could go out and help other catholic churches in that deanery and beyond to see revitalisation and growth. Key appointments had been made. +RH gave an invitation to get in touch with her or Revd Ryan Green who was unable to be there for more information.

+RH reported that the latest SDF bid was for £1.6 million for Crawley, the town judged by the office of statistics to be the worst hit by the pandemic with fifty thousand people having been made unemployed at Gatwick Airport which exacerbated huge social problems across the town. The previous SDF funding had revitalised St Johns Crawley under Steve Burston's leadership and the new bid took the church to the next level in terms of their reach to the 18-30 age group and working to revitalise churches in West Green, Three Bridges and the huge new housing estates, all of it in partnership not just with Anglicans but ecumenically as well. +RH invited Synod to watch this space for whether the bid was successful.

+MC commended Rebecca Swyer's paper for a variety of reasons. The apostolic partnership mentality was being used to identify areas of the greatest need, not only social need, but areas where we have seen the church grow tired and begin to fail. There was no blame attached to that. +MC recalled a parish where the wardens came to see him to hand back the keys. They simply said 'we are exhausted. It was not because we don't love Jesus but we cannot run this building.' It was not a loss of faith but a leap of faith to say something else has to happen, which it had since. Looking at areas where we can see that something else has to happen and that is where partnership can be where the leap of faith and change can be made.

+MC thanked +RH. +MC felt that SDF was not about buying into a formula which forces apostolic life in parishes to follow a particular pattern. It was about outlining our theological character and what it is we are as a household of faith. One of the things about us as a household of faith was we rejoice in our differences in churchmanship, not as a source of division but enrichment – the ways in which the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ was celebrated in a glorious diversity of ways. Apostolic Partnership was about celebrating the richness of that diversity. +MC had interviewed someone who had applied to go into an SDF funded partnership. His answer to why he wanted to come to the Diocese of Chichester was that he liked the term 'Apostolic Partnership' and wanted to be part of a partnership full of the mission of the gospel: apostolic life being sent out. +MC emphasised the importance of this paper because it gave the theological foundation of what it was we are trying to do. +MC believed this to be an important way of articulating our faith.

+MC thanked BS and +RH for the presentations.

Gill Bradnam 249 Hurst Deanery (GB) said that she was a member of The Point Church but now was a member of St Edward the Confessor: the Apostolic Partnership had just begun. She wanted to give her 'view from the pew'. She would never have thought she would be a member of an Anglo Catholic church. She was proud to be a member, was already very involved and to experience Easter in that tradition totally 'blew her mind'. GB felt that if clergy felt the call into an Apostolic Partnership but were unsure whether their congregation would want it, they should go for it: 'if God calls you've just got to go'. It was a very exciting journey and she looked forward to all God was going to do.

**9. REPORT FROM GENERAL SYNOD**

Bradley Smith 148 Arundel & Bognor Deanery moved "That these reports be received".

There were no questions or comments.

The report was received by a show of hands.

**10. REPORT ON THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL**

John Booth 171 Arundel & Bognor Deanery moved "That this report be received".

Dr Brian Hanson CBE 262 Storrington Deanery (BH) thanked JB. BH asked if the Bishop's Council had discussed the repercussions of the apology for the Archbishop of Canterbury in relation to Bishop George Bell, and said it should do so. +MC confirmed the matter would be referred to the Bishop's Council for consideration.

Jeremy Kaye 238 East Grinstead Deanery asked why the renewal of Permission to Officiate had been reduced from five to three years. +MC explained safer recruitment regulations had driven this change.

The report was received by a show of hands.

**11. PROMULGATION OF ACT OF SYNOD AFFIRMING AND PROCLAIMING THE VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES REGULATION 1993, AS AMENDED**

The Bishop proclaimed the Act of Synod as follows: "At the Group of Sessions of the General Synod held at Westminster in November 2021 the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 1993 in the form it takes following its amendment in July 2021 was formally affirmed and proclaimed as an Act of Synod.

An Act of Synod is the embodiment of the will or opinion of the Church of England as expressed by the whole body of the General Synod. Copies of the Instrument proclaiming and affirming the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation as an Act of Synod have been sent to members of this Synod."

**12. QUESTIONS UNDER SO69**

The Bishop confirmed there were no Questions under Standing Order 69.

+MC confirmed the Mental Health guide would be made available as referred to by the NHS chaplains.

The Bishop thanked St Mary's and all those involved for their hospitality.

The meeting ended with a blessing.

Absent without apologies: TBC

## 2025: PROCLAIMING THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

2025 marks the 950 anniversary of the foundation of Diocesan Mission on the Chichester site. It also marks the 1700 anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, from which we derive the Creed that we normally recite in the Eucharist. We shall mark these joint anniversaries in the following ways:-

1. Pulling together the 4 Mores (an unrealised resource, due to Covid) in to a programme for 2023 and 2024 that will prepare for the **Year of Faith** in 2025.
  2. Devising Lent Courses, lectures, seminars and on-line resources for clergy and laity in each of the 3 years that will build an understanding of the emergence of Christian doctrine, mission and evangelisation.
  3. 2023 to be the Year of the Old Testament. Focus on *One, Holy* as OT themes, looking at the development of typology, pointing to Jesus, so inspiring us to be More Open to faith in God, More Converted to Jesus Christ.
  4. 2024 to be the Year of New Testament Plus. Focus on *Catholic, Apostolic*, looking at Church as the assembly of worship and preaching as the context for the formation of the NT Canon: exploring formation as More Generous (orthodoxy?), More Engaged (in arts, science, media) as Christian apologists.
  5. 2025 to the Year of Faith, looking at what we believe about God, in creation, redemption, and the work of sanctification.
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- Setting out a template for the shared celebration of Holy Week and Easter
  - Marking the contours of faith (prayer walks, pilgrimages, etc) in churches founded on ancient pathways - the prototype of trade and social media
  - Celebration of Pentecost to Trinity Sunday - empowering proclamation of the mystery of faith
  - Celebration of the Chichester Cathedral's foundation dedicated to the Holy Trinity
  - Consolidated establishment of the *Art of Liturgy* project, drawing from the inspiration of Bishop George Bell
  - Completion of the refurbishment of the facilities at the Palace as a diocesan resource for teaching, mission and outreach
  - Clergy Conference in Canterbury
  - Launch of Diocesan Vision 2025 - 2030