

Diocese of Gloucester Diocesan Synod 29th June 2016

Briefing for Stroud Deanery Synod on 5th October 2016

Introduction

The Synod met at St George's, Tuffley and was very much a business meeting, though we also participated at the start of the session in the Vision Conversations process.

Vision Conversation

Bishop Rachel updated the Synod on the progress of the Vision Conversations and a short time was spent in small groups responding to the questions being discussed across the diocese. A few examples of points raised in discussion were fed back at the session, but all the notes taken were collected in to contribute to the next stages of the process.

This has moved on substantially since that meeting, as reflected in our agenda this evening.

Motion from North Cotswold Deanery

Bishop Rachel had recently produced a report about the management of sales of glebe land, in response to the recommendations of a working group she had set up to consider the issues, chaired by the Chair of the House of Laity of Bristol Diocese. North Cotswold proposed the following motion: "This Synod believes that Diocesan Synod should have a discussion about the accountability of the Diocese's Glebe Committee, and the policies and processes by which it makes its decisions" and a written response was provided by the Diocesan Secretary. This suggested that a simple poll of members should be carried out electronically to gauge interest in this item in order to inform the Diocesan Synod Agenda Planning Group.

Diocesan Stipends Fund

Synod debated the motion:

"This synod approves the annual apportionment of income from the Diocesan Stipends Fund from 2017 as follows:

- a) One half of the available funds will be allocated to deaneries based on population adjusted for Experian income indexing to provide a clear bias for the poor.
- b) One half of the available funds will be allocated at an inter-deanery meeting to be held each summer as the final part of preparing the DBF budget for Synod."

The background paper for this item can be found at

<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1472049679.pdf>

During the debate I made my usual plea for simple information on the allocation process to be made available to Deaneries and Parishes, which was acknowledged.

The motion was carried.

Annual Accounts 2015

The Consolidate Accounts of Gloucester DBF for the year ended 31st December 2015 were received. During the discussion it was noted that the website for the Diocesan Development Fund is being developed. The Accounts can be found on the Diocesan website at

<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1472049736.pdf>

Appointment of Auditors

Haysmacintyre were appointed the DBF's auditors for the next period.

Bishop's Council Update

Synod received a written update for information about the decisions taken at Bishop's Council in February and May and this can be found on the Diocesan Synod page of the Diocesan website.

Margaret Sheather
3rd October 2016