



The Diocese of
Southwark

DIOCESAN SYNOD

SYNOD QUESTIONS NOTICE PAPER

Question 1

Q *Mr Christopher Elliott (Reigate Deanery)*

To the Diocesan Secretary: Please will you give a report on how progress is being made with implementing the recommendations contained in the Report of the Lay Leadership & Lay Ministry Advisory Group which were adopted and approved by Synod in July 2018

A *The Diocesan Secretary*

Significant progress has been made in implementing the ten key recommendations of the Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Report since it was approved by Diocesan Synod in July 2018. Oversight of the implementation was initially carried out by a small task group including the Archdeacon of Southwark and the Diocesan Secretary, but since January 2020 responsibility has been passed to the Directors according to areas of responsibility and they will report regularly to the Lay Council. Members will have noted the high profile of our lay people during the C-19 lockdown, including the high level of volunteering to meet the needs of lonely and deprived neighbours, and the high profile of lay people in so many online acts of worship.

Particular progress has been made in the following areas: the establishing of a Lay Council to oversee developments in mission and ministry; a refocussing of communications on lay people that will be even more evident with the launch of our new website and which can already be seen in the revamped diocesan newsier *The Bridge*; fresh routes to discernment and selection for authorised, commissioned and licensed ministries (existing ministries in 2020, new ministries in 2021); Growing Faith project bringing together school head teachers and local clergy to focus on discipleship for children, young people and families; Everyday Faith resources widely shared and promoted; Lay Champions in Deanery Leadership Teams; the coming together of the Mission team and JPiC teams under the Director of Mission to support the “sent” church. The diocese is committed to playing our part in outreach and evangelism to urban estates through the equipping and mobilisation of lay leadership/ lay ministry. Gary Jenkins (The Diocesan Urban Estates Adviser) is working with Jay Colwill and others to develop this thinking in the coming months.

Supplementary Question *Mr Christopher Elliott (Reigate Deanery)*

How much needs to be done to embed changes into our thinking and culture to reach a situation where lay and ordained are regarded equally?

Supplementary Answer (The Diocesan Secretary)

We hope to give a fulsome report on Lay Leadership and Lay ministry to the Synod next summer. Colleagues have made great progress and Synod will be encouraged with the efforts to affirm and recognise the importance of Lay Leadership and Ministry. The Lay Council has moved quickly into the transition arrangements for existing ministries and new ones. We are hoping to have made further progress with the new ministries by this time next year, it will be reported regularly through the Lay Council and updated to DCT and Synod. Culture change needs to be embedded and this takes time, we have done this already through structures (the Lay Council) and culturally.

Question 2

Q Mrs Despina Francois (West Lewisham Deanery)

Growing Faith: Following the launch of this national strategy in 2019, (a) what has been achieved so far in the Diocese and (b) what are the plans to build on this?

A The Diocesan Secretary

Mr Colin Powell (Diocesan Director of Education) has been appointed the Growing Faith Champion for the Diocese and has attended national termly briefings and works collaboratively with colleagues across the diocese particularly with the Discipleship and Ministry, Mission and Evangelism teams. Growing Faith is becoming an integral part of department plans. At a diocesan level, curates receive training as part of their CME in relation to the 'Growing Faith' report. In the Autumn of 2019, Children and Young People's Workers (both paid and volunteers) were invited to attend a training event to promote 'Growing Faith': led by Aike Kennett-Brown and Keli Bolton. Both diocesan CYP Advisers continue to engage with their colleagues at a national level to see how the implementation of the report can take root. One of the positive 'by-products' of the lockdown was the opportunity to promote and embed 'faith in the home' and equip parents to grow in confidence as they shared the faith with their children. Resources have been made widely available to this end. Archdeacons have also adjusted the Articles of Enquiry to include a question relating to the development of youth at a parish level.

We hope to build on the Growing Faith report by a presentation to Diocesan Synod later in the year where we encourage all children and young people to be seen as full participants in the life of our churches and who have a valued contribution to make in the building of God's Kingdom. This will include looking at the place of the voice of young people in parish and diocesan work, for example Youth Forum and other gatherings are planned where we can hear the voices of young people contribute to the wider life of the church.

Supplementary Question: Mrs Despina Francois (West Lewisham Deanery)

What resources are available to parish and deanery levels including training at local level?

Supplementary Answer: The Revd Canon Jay Colwill (Canon Missioner)

The root of the Nigel Genders Report is the triangle of home, school and church working together so that growing faith can be integral to the life of young people as we grow together. What Covid-19 has led us to is a situation where faith in the home, and parenting for faith, has been something every parent and grandparent has participated in. Faith and discipleship has been happening there. The Diocese has resourced churches and families through newsletters and uploads on the website. During this time, when we cannot meet, we use the resources of the national and international church for parishes. As we move out of lockdown, we are going to engage in this with Synod (as was meant to happen before lockdown cancelled the Synod meeting in March). In the meantime, Growing Faith in the homes and schools of the gathered community is giving us a strong platform for ensuring faith in every generation is proclaimed. Synod will have an opportunity to discuss this at one of its future meetings.