



## DIOCESAN SYNOD QUESTIONS

### Question 1

**Q** *Fr Martin Hislop (Kingston Deanery)*

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation:

As this Department does not include any directly elected members from the Areas or Deaneries and its page on the Diocesan Website provides no update on activities being undertaken can Synod be informed of:

- a) the membership of any working parties or projects being undertaken by the Department and its Officers and,
- b) what are the current projects being pursued by the Department?

**A** *The Diocesan Secretary*

Each meeting of the Diocesan Council of Trustees, the trustee governance body of the Diocese, is provided with a management report to update Trustees and the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation department contributes in a very fulsome way to those reports. The governance and management structure of the Diocese is such that Synod directly elects the majority of trustees on the Diocesan Council of Trustees which holds the work of the diocese to account through its officers, including the work of JPIC.

JPIC works directly and very collaboratively with parishes and also with strategic partners, rather than through formally constituted working groups. However its work in poverty through Together Southwark has clergy and laity representation from across the Diocese and supports the Diocesan and Area Minority Ethnic Anglican (MEACC) where there are three Area Committees, one in each Episcopal area.

Synod has had direct presentations about areas of its work in the last triennium, this included, Modern Day Slavery, Refugees, and Prisons. We open the current triennium with a presentation on Eco Church.

It is fully accepted that the website and synod meetings are very important means of communication of its work. The JPIC Department, along with all other departments in the Diocese, is in the process of working with the Press & Communications Team to update its presence on the Diocesan website, which will include a regular posting of activities and events through a diocesan events calendar currently under development as well as updating of the webpages themselves. In addition it is very active on social media.

There are a number of projects as the department works so collaboratively at all levels across the diocese. Across the different areas of work the main ones are at present:

- Modern Slavery- In partnership with the **Clewer Initiative** and **Hestia** (largest charity working on this issue, and based in the diocese)
- Working with local churches, the Refugee Welcome team and the local council in Lewisham to evaluate the local **Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme**
- Working with the Mothers Union and local churches to provide **English Language** courses for refugee women.
- **Holiday Hunger programmes** for churches and the community in all three Diocesan Episcopal Areas, in partnership with churches and for example Lambeth Council.
- Establishing **Places of Welcome** in local churches in Woolwich area, and also rolling out a Roadshow on Places of Welcome to a number of local churches in the Kingston Area.
- Coordinated the recent Pan London Church's Serious Youth Violence Summit held at Southwark Cathedral, on Tuesday 13 November for 250 people and brought together groups such as Citizens, XLP, London Churches Social Action, Capital Mass as well as all four dioceses.
- The Windrush Generation, for example the recent BHM service in the Cathedral, attended by over 800 people. Engaged in an ongoing **Cost of Citizenship** campaign with the organisation Citizens. This work was highlighted for action in General Synod in 2017.
- Working with the Diocesan Board of Education on issues around permanent school Exclusions, pupil referral units, crime, Prison, providing relevant resources materials for churches with Issue6ix productions.
- A recent Destitution Seminar. In the New Year we will be taking resources from our 'how to support destitute people in your parish' to two episcopal area training days.
- Developing an evaluation of the Croydon North Deanery Public Spirit programme for young people, in order to support best practice and possible replication in other deaneries.
- Delivering seminars 'Putting our Faith into Action', which helps to highlight the work currently being undertaken by many parishes and how the department can assist.
- Promoting Eco Church amongst parishes and at Diocesan level.
- Christian/ Jewish relations, including training on Holocaust Memorial day
- Church/mosque twinning programmes, which were initiated in the diocese and has been rolled out to a national programme.
- The Diocesan Dementia Forum.

## Question 2

**Q** *Adrian Greenwood (Bermondsey Deanery)*

Given that the Electoral Roll of each parish must be completely renewed in time for the 2019 APCMs, what advice, guidance and/or support can be offered to Electoral Roll Officers, PCC Secretaries and Churchwardens so that they complete the task efficiently, correctly and accurately?

**A** **The Diocesan Secretary**

At the end of each year I (the Diocesan Secretary) write to the PCC Secretaries, copied to incumbents, detailing the processes and deadlines for the APCM. This will include, for the 2019 Renewal of Electoral Rolls, details of how to prepare for the changes, the dates for and timescales in displaying the rolls, as well as the forms that will need to be used.

This information will be published on the website (with links to the National Church's guidance pages) and my Executive Assistant will be on hand to answer any queries and give guidance when required.

If there is additional information that members believe would help in the process, please do let my Executive Assistant know ([charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org)).

## Question 3

**Q** *Mr Christopher Elliott (Reigate Deanery)*

"At the last Diocesan Synod meeting held on 4th July 2018 final reports by both the Deaneries Advisory Group and the Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Group were overwhelmingly accepted by Synod. Each of these reports contained a number of recommendations. Please can we be advised as to the progress with planning, within our Diocese, for the implementation of those recommendations?"

**A** ***The Diocesan Secretary and the Archdeacon of Southwark***

Members of Synod who attended one of the induction sessions for Diocesan Synod members, were given full briefings and updates on these areas, and the reports and slides have been provided to all members. Work is ongoing with the implementation of the Reports' recommendations which includes the recruitment of a Lay Leadership Development Adviser, and the development of Deanery Leadership Teams led by the Deaneries Development Adviser.

Particular recommendations are already included in the annual objectives for 2019, as approved by the Diocesan Council of Trustees in October. The presentation of the Annual Objectives at this session of Synod will detail these and members will be asked for their feedback.

A more detailed presentation will be tabled for the March meeting of Synod.

## Question 4

**Q** *The Revd Nick Walsh (East Lewisham Deanery)*

The Parish Giving Scheme has been adopted by a number of dioceses around the country, and has been found to be a useful tool for churches. Indeed, in some cases, it has led to increased giving for churches using the scheme. Has the Diocese of Southwark considered joining the scheme?

**A** *The Diocesan Secretary*

We recognise that the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has proved a useful process for encouraging giving in some dioceses and 22 Dioceses are currently using the Direct Debit scheme. I and other staff members have met with and are continuing to liaise closely with the PGS Team with a view to being able to recommend this to our parishes in due course.

One of our current concerns is that the process for setting up direct debits is paper-based and at the moment requires all donors to send in paper registration forms to the Gloucester office. We know from other dioceses that this implementation process is very labour intensive for treasurers. The PGS team have been working for the last two years to develop an online option and we are hoping, as are they, that this will be available in 2019. We believe that this development is vital before we can consider joining the scheme.