



DIOCESAN SYNOD

QUESTIONS

Question 1

Q *Fr Martin Hislop (Kingston Deanery)*

Could Synod be informed of the regulations and/or guidelines that cover the authority and permission for individuals (both clergy and lay) to take services and/or preach in the Diocese?

A *The Bishop of Southwark*

The authorisation of Clergy and lay people to conduct public worship is a complex area which does not lend itself to summary. It is governed by Canon, but needs to be operated with common sense and discretion, particularly to ensure that it is rigorous enough to meet the needs of contemporary safeguarding requirements, which will sometimes mean going beyond the minimum requirements set out in the Canons. An overview is provided in the following paragraph.

Clergy and Readers holding the Bishop of Southwark's Licence or Permission to Officiate take services and preach in accordance with the terms of such authorisation. Clergy in good standing in another Church of England Diocese (or in another Church with which the Church of England is in Communion) may, within certain limits, be invited by the Incumbent of a Southwark Parish to conduct public worship in the Parish; in light of the growing recognition of the need for rigorous safeguarding processes, the policy in Southwark is that: visiting clergy may preach or officiate on up to two occasions in any calendar year, and the Diocesan Bishop's permission must be sought and received in relation to each visit; for more frequent visits PtO should be sought. Clergy of other denominations may participate in public worship as permitted in Canons B43 and B44 (which for preaching or officiating will require the Diocesan's permission to be sought). Lay people may be invited to preach by the Incumbent, but again, in accordance with Canon B18, the Diocesan's permission must be sought first - this permission can be given on a one-off basis, or for a longer period.

Question 2

Q *Carl Hughes (Wandsworth Deanery)*

Diocesan education was last addressed by Synod at its meeting in July 2016 and the minutes of that meeting state, regarding the establishment and initial funding of the SDBE MAT by grants from the DCT, that '£800,000 is expected to be adequate and will only be drawn down if needed. In the longer term, the MAT should be self-funding'. In this context,

- i. is the maximum total grant from the SDBF to the SDBE for the SDBE MAT capped at £800,000?;
- ii. how much of this grant has been paid to date?;
- iii. and when is it anticipated that the SDBE MAT will be generating sufficient income from its schools so as to no longer require a grant from the Diocesan Council of Trustees?

A *The Bishop of Croydon (Chair of the SDBE & MAT member)*

The DBF sold £800,000 of investments in 2016 and a further £200,000 in 2017 to fund the £1m discretionary fund mandated by Synod and reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding between the SDBE and the DCT (DBF).

£150,000 was awarded as a grant in July 2017 and a further £150,000 was awarded in April 2018. No further awards are anticipated in 2018 or 2019.

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding, the main purpose of the fund is to pump prime the MAT in its early years. The second drawdown of funds is being held, prudently, by the SDBE in anticipation of any requests made by the MAT for conversion of schools to Academy Status and to build up working capital reserves. Should the MAT not use all/part of the funds, the remaining draw down will be returned.

Since September 2017, the Trust has generated its own income from its member Academies which has, and continues to be at present, sufficient to cover annual operating costs.

Question 3

Q *Carl Hughes (Wandsworth Deanery)*

Given that the SDBE financial statements as at 31 December 2016 show total unrestricted funds of over £21 million (including general funds of £3.3 million and investment properties in the designated property fund of some £16 million), what are the plans for the utilisation of these resources for the benefit of education in the Diocese, including in support of the SDBE MAT?

A *The Bishop of Croydon (Chair of the SDBE & MAT member)*

The unrestricted funds referenced in the SDBE financial accounts will be utilised according to the Strategic Objectives of the board, outlined in the Annual Reports. The Key areas of direction of these funds will be towards Church School

Effectiveness; further development of Chaplaincy in our Schools, Colleges and Universities and Sustainability, Development and Growth of Church of England Education throughout the Diocese.

The unrestricted funds will not be used to support the SDBE MAT. Since September 2017, the Trust has generated its own income from its member Academies which has, and continues to be, sufficient to cover annual operating costs. The Trust closed the 16/17 financial year with a surplus and is expecting to close the 17/18 financial year with a surplus. In this and the last financial year, the Multi Academy Trust has been able to demonstrate to the Department for Education and Education Funding Agency that it can live within its means using only income generated by its member Academies.

Question 4

Q ***Question 4 Mr Christopher Elliott (Reigate Deanery)***

Welcoming both the final reports from the Deaneries Advisory Group and also the Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Group both of which have a number of recommendations. In the hope that both reports will be accepted by Synod please can there be a time scale for these recommendations to come into force presented to Diocesan Synod in November 2018.

A ***The Diocesan Secretary***

The motions for both the Deaneries' Advisory Group, and Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Group's Reports have a recommendation to report back to the Diocesan Council of Trustees, and update the Diocesan Synod regularly. Timescales will be part of the planning process for implementation of the recommendations and will be included in our regular updates as soon as practicably possible.