



DIOCESAN SYNOD

SYNOD QUESTIONS NOTICE PAPER

Question 1

Q The Revd Martin Hislop [Kingston Deanery Deanery]

How many parsonages have been built or adapted to meet Eco criteria in the past 5 years and at what cost for each parsonage?

What difficulties and problems have been encountered with such eco parsonage?

A The Diocesan Secretary

Five parsonages have been completed in the last 5 years. Each of these was completed to very rigorous environmental standards. Each project was bespoke, depending on the site and location, and the cost varied between (£750k - £1m).

The building of these parsonages were each the culmination of projects in partnership with the parishes that began 7 -10 years previously.

There will be plans to adapt parsonages in order to achieve the Carbon Net Zero targets and this work is currently being planned in line with the reintroduction of our Quinquennial Reviews of parsonages.

Where there have been difficulties, these are generally in relation to the complex mechanical and electrical systems used, for example with heating systems and controls. There are no plans to build further parsonages to this specification.

Question 2

Q The Revd Helen Hancock [Kingston Deanery]

Following the Panorama programme on racism in the Church of England and the Archbishop of Canterbury's condemnation of Non-Disclosure Agreements in April this year, could the Diocese please confirm whether it has entered into any NDAs in relation to issues of racism or any other Diocesan matters within the last (a) one year and/ or (b) five years.

A The Diocesan Secretary

The Diocese has not entered into Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) within the last five years. It is not the practice of the Diocese to use NDAs in the resolution of disputes.

As with many charitable and commercial organisations, on a small number of occasions, the Diocese has entered into settlement agreements in connection with an individual's agreed departure from an office or employment. The Diocese has not entered into any settlement agreements concerning any matter alleging racism or race discrimination that have arisen in the last 5 years.

Question 3

Q Revd Michelle Edmonds [Tandridge Deanery]

In considering the work necessary for the Diocese to become an Eco-Diocese, does this include parsonages or just the church buildings?

The benefits of solar panels and other adaptations might be easier to effect on these buildings and potentially have a much higher impact overall.

A The Diocesan Secretary

The criteria for achieving the A Rocha Bronze Eco Diocese Award include having an appropriate Environmental policy which is before members of Synod tonight for approval. This must include items on travel, the environmental maintenance of vicarages, and a commitment to reducing diocesan carbon emissions. The policy being presented tonight covers these points.

The updated Environmental Policy makes a specific reference to the maintenance of vicarages and, subject to resources, the development of a plan to maintain our vicarages in an environmentally friendly way. According to the Church of England's 2012 energy audit, clergy housing accounts for just 6% of the carbon emissions attributed to the Church of England.