



DIOCESAN SYNOD

SYNOD QUESTIONS NOTICE PAPER

Question 1

Q Ian Wilson (Kingston Deanery)

Please state who the diocese employs as advisers, their job titles and remuneration (including staff and office costs)?

A The Diocesan Secretary

The Diocese does not employ “advisers”. We do use many advisers who are not employed by the diocese to provide specific ad hoc professional advice particularly in property and legal matters, as well as many volunteer advisers withing vocations for example. The Bishop commissions a number of advisers on a wide range of matters, none of whom receive remuneration for their valuable services.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is the only employee whose job title has the term adviser, which is a required job role in every diocese.

We do not release remuneration details of individual staff. A breakdown of staff costs can be found in Section 13 (page 64) of the 2020 Annual Report

https://southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Annual-Report-2020_final-low-res.pdf

Question 2

Q April Alexander (Tandridge Deanery)

What are the plans to explore ways to ensure that there will be hustings for the next General Synod elections no matter how many candidates there are now that we have observed how vital hustings are for Deanery Synod members who may only know a very few candidates and their churchwomanship (eg to hold hustings area by area and offer recordings of each hustings meeting to those who did not attend it.)

A The Diocesan Secretary

General Synod election hustings were held virtually in 2021 in order to ensure the best and most effective use of time and social distancing given the pandemic at the time.

Hustings were developed and hosted with the advice and support of the Diocesan Registrar, as the Diocese had to remain, at all times, impartial. We are governed by very strict rules of fairness and are required to provide election addresses to electors, but we cannot include or request information, such as churchmanship, as this is for candidates to

disclose, or electors to ask directly. Almost all nominees provided contact details on the addresses for the electorate to communicate directly with them.

Questions were submitted via the Registrar to ensure that as many of the most popular questions could be given to nominees, and so be included within their speeches, to offer them all a chance to answer the same questions.

GDPR and fairness to those who were unable to attend meant it was very difficult to stream the video after the event, this has been a common issue throughout the pandemic.

We had many positive comments following the husting sessions.

As we move through the pandemic to more normal times we envisage moving back to having in person hustings, in combination with virtual meetings, as they were so effective. But this will be discussed nearer the time with the Presidents of the Synod with advice from the Registrar.

Question 3

Q Fr Martin Hislop (Kingston Deanery)

What policies and procedures are in place to ensure the Diocesan Investments reflect and embrace the aspirations for Ethical Investment?

A The Diocesan Secretary

The Diocese is committed to following the ethical and climate change investment guidelines laid down by the Ethical Advisory Group of the National Investing Bodies of the Church of England.

We do not invest directly, but through collective investment vehicles, and have no direct holdings of equities or bonds in fossil fuel companies.