



DIOCESAN SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting held 11 March 2023 at St Peter's Church, Battersea

73 members signified their presence.

01/23 WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

1. The Bishop of Southwark welcomed members of Synod, particularly new members who were attending a meeting for the first time. Special welcome was given to the Bishop of Kingston at his first meeting, the Revd Dylan Taylor from the Anglican Communion, Shaun Burns from the SDBE, and Naomi Shaw from the Cathedral.
2. The Bishop of Kingston opened the meeting in prayer.

02/23 ANNOUNCEMENT & NOTICES

3. The Diocesan Secretary thanked the staff helping at the meeting and gave a brief update on the successful bid from the SDF3 fund for the Diocese.

03/23 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

4. The Bishop of Southwark gave the Presidential Address, the text of which can be found at Appendix A.

04/23 ANGLICAN COMMUNION

5. The Revd Dylan Turner (Anglican Communion Relations Officer) gave a presentation introduction the Anglican Communion. This included its structure, its instrument of unity, and how the Communion operates as a global body.
6. Members asked The Revd Dylan Turner questions, and the Synod prayed for the Communion's unity and for greater links with parishes across worldwide Anglican Communion.

05/23 GENERAL SYNOD UPDATE

7. Paul Waddell (General Synod Member) updated members on the business of the February meeting of the General Synod. This included items on Living in Love & Faith, Safeguarding, and the Cost of Living.

06/23 ENVIRONMENT & CARBON NET ZERO UPDATE

8. The Bishop of Kingston gave his Maiden Speech alongside the Head of JPIC, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, Shaun Burns (from the SDBE), and Naomi Shaw (from the Cathedral). The presentation included the current status of the Diocese's goal to become a Silver Eco Diocese. Not only did this include the actions parishes are taking

to reduce their emissions, but how Diocesan Schools and the Cathedral are making changes in order to fully support the Fifth Mark of Mission.

9. Members were updated on the status of the Diocese's goal to attain a state of Carbon net Zero, and the immediate steps being taken in order to achieve this, including the application for a Church Commissioner-funded grant to help support this.

07/23* CARBON NET ZERO ACTION PLAN

10. Following on from item 06/23, members were presented with the Carbon Net Zero Action Plan which was summarised in the following motion proposed by the Archdeacon of Reigate:

The Archdeacon of Reigate moved that:

“This Synod acknowledges the climate crisis and, in keeping with our responsibility to safeguard the integrity of creation (Fifth Mark of Mission);

a) recognises the need to reduce carbon emissions and endorses the initial direction of the Diocesan Carbon Net Zero Action plan which follows the Routemap set out by the National Environment Team and is in line with the Diocesan Environment Policy and Synodically agreed annual objectives for 2023;

and

b) requests the Diocesan Secretary to create a designated fund to further enable the success of the Carbon Net Zero Action Plan.”

11. The motion, with members voting by a show of hands, was passed unanimously.

THIS TIME TOMORROW & EUCHARIST

12. The Revd Mark Smith (Plumstead Deanery) presented This Time Tomorrow. This was followed by a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, at which the Bishop of Southwark Presided. The Venerable Moira Astin (Archdeacon of Reigate) was commissioned as Faith in the Countryside Officer during the Eucharist.

08/23* BATTERSEA DEANERY SYNOD MOTIONS ON ETHICAL INVESTMENT

13. Members were asked to debate a motion proposed by Battersea Deanery which regarded ethical investments in fossil fuels, including divestment from the aforementioned fossil fuels. The debate included speeches from Alan Saunders (Co-Opted), The Revd Richard Taylor (Battersea Deanery), Vanessa Elston (invited speaker), John Dewhurst (Kingston Deanery), April Alexander (Tandridge Deanery), Marshall Manson (Deptford Deanery), The Ven Alastair Cutting (Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich), The Revd Tiffany-Alice Ewins (Battersea Deanery), and Sir David Beamish (Ex-Officio).

22/22 FORMAL QUESTIONS

14. Formal questions and answers were presented to members and the Notice Paper which includes the supplementary questions and answers can be found on the website.

The meeting closed with the Grace, led by the Bishop of Southwark.