



Wendy S Robins

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

The Diocesan Synod met at St John's Waterloo on Saturday 12 March and the Revd Greg Prior opened the Synod in prayer.

Notices and Announcements followed and Bishop Christopher announced that he had appointed the Revd Joshua Rey as his new Chaplain. Joshua will take up his role in May. He expressed his gratitude to Peter Haddock who has been his Acting (Lay) Chaplain and who, he said would be staying on in a part-time capacity. Peter received a round of applause.

Bishop Christopher also said that he was pleased to welcome back Vasantha Gnanadoss who had accepted his invitation to become a member of Synod as one of the Bishops' Nominees. Bishop Christopher welcome those who were attending Synod for the first time and it was noted that the cards being sold in aid of the Bishop's Lent Call were available at the meeting, as were booklets concerning Battersea to the Barrier (this material can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1pEyrOc>) and copies of a leaflet entitled 'Southwark Diocese is Going Green'.



Bishop Christopher delivers the Presidential address

Paul Morris, the Diocesan Registrar then promulgated Amending Canon 34. He noted that the February 2016 meeting of the General Synod resolved that amending Canon 34 be made promulgated and executed.

This amending Canon is intended to strengthen the church's position on safeguarding. A new Canon 30 requires there to be a safeguarding officer in each Diocese and allows Bishops to require people to undergo a risk assessment.

The amending Canon also

prevents clergy not authorised to minister from vesting. The Canon will not all come into force immediately but will be brought in in stages.

Presidential Address

Bishop Christopher then gave his Presidential Address which spoke about Bishop Michael's appointment, the Venerable Danny Kajumba's retirement, the new Public Policy Department and the pleasing financial situation of the Diocese as well as the new Diocesan structures. The full address can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1T3XFB0>

Following the Presidential Address Bishop Christopher moved the motion standing in his name concerning the appointment of a new Bishop of Woolwich.

The motion which Synod was asked to pass expressed the Synod's 'support for the Area System as currently operated and requests the Bishop of Southwark to notify the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dioceses Commission of his proposal to appoint to the See of Woolwich.' Seven spoke

in the debate and then the motion was overwhelmingly passed (see facing page).

Parish Support Fund update

Ruth Martin, the Diocesan Secretary, then gave an update on the Parish Support Fund. She spoke of the move from the Fairer Shares system to a pledge based system noting that the scheme is based on generosity and each parish decides what they can give.

She told Synod that 80% of Diocesan budget goes to the payment of clergy and housing them. So far, she said, only four parishes had not delivered a pledge and only about ten parishes have not yet given anything. She added, however, that she was confident that they will do so.

In speaking of the Scheme she noted the importance of considering how best to empower Deaneries to play a greater role, making them viable centres of mission and ministry. Transparency will be critical in this, she said. Ruth Martin went on to explain



Below; The discussion groups & above; Ruth Martin

that only 29% parishes are self financing. There are some who cannot become self-financing but we need to focus on changing this balance in order that we can fund other important initiatives, she said.

The Synod was then invited to discuss in groups how we can encourage parishes to continue to be generous and how we can communicate our needs more effectively. Following the discussion nine offered feedback.

The work of the Public Policy Department

The Revd Dr Canon Rosemarie Mallett in her role as the Diocesan Public Policy Adviser gave an update on the work of the Public Policy Department.

She explained the staffing and structure noting that the objective of the Department is to 'Advise and Resource the Diocesan Bishops and Parishes on the issues of Social Concern facing our communities, Parishes, Clergy and Lay people'.

She told Synod of the four focused themes that the Public Policy department will be considering in this, the Jubilee Year of Mercy. These are housing justice and homelessness for the first quarter; migration, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from April to June; poverty from July to September and imprisonment and detention in the final quarter of the year.

Each quarter they will produce resources for reflection and action and

Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett



to celebrate what is already happening in the Diocese. She spoke too of the London Mayoral elections and of the EU referendum.

Rosemarie had a display of prayers written by children on some of the issues that she had mentioned and closed her presentation with one of them.

Evangelism Task Group

Capt. Nicholas Lebey gave an animated report about his first meeting of the General Synod which took place in February speaking particularly about the Report on the Evangelism Task Group. He urged Diocesan Synod to embrace the Report and mentioned the Church



Capt Nicholas Lebey CA

Army resource which is being pilot tested in some churches in the Diocese.

Nicholas spoke of the work in groups in which one of the things they discussed was how they came to faith and how important it is to tell stories and look at new ways of sharing our faith.

Hearts on Fire

Bishop Christopher then introduced the debate on 'Hearts on Fire: a vision for Mission in the Diocese of Southwark', saying that the paper which had been circulated looked at what it meant for us to be people who had hearts on fire with love of God.

Bishop Jonathan introduced the paper saying that the material was taken from Bishop Christopher's introduction to the Strategy for Ministry



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