

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Diocesan Synod
Held on 5 April 2014, St Jude's Mapperley**

Chairs: Phil Williams, Chair of the House of Clergy/Pam Bishop, Chair of the House of Laity

1 Welcome, Introduction & Notices

1 Nigel Spraggins welcomed members to Diocesan Synod.

2 Opening Worship

2 Opening worship was led by The Revd Canon Phil Williams

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19 October 2013

3 The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

4 No matters arising were received.

5 Report on Business conducted at Bishop's Council

5 DS/Apr14/2 was presented by Nigel Spraggins, Chief Executive. The work of the
6 Vacancy in See Committee was progressing. Consultation meetings had been
7 arranged around the Diocese which had been well attended. The Archbishop's
8 Appointments Secretaries would be in the Diocese on 7-9 July 2014 to attend a
9 public meeting and meet various groups and key leaders in the Diocese. The Crown
10 Nominations Committee meetings would be held in November/December.

11 Nigel provided a staffing update in Jubilee House. Carole Park retired at the end of
12 December 2013. Fraser McNish was appointed as Director of Parish Support. DBF
13 HR support was now within Jo Padmore's portfolio with additional staff in the
14 Executive Support Team of Heather Sirrel (previously Church History Project) to
15 support Jo and also to progress pastoral measure work.

16 Michael Arlington, Chair of the Board of Finance, expanded further on the Deanery
17 Share Review Group. The conclusion had been reached not to implement any
18 change. Discussion took place on different ways of calculating share. The Diocese
19 currently used Experian data of incomes by ward. It had been discovered that
20 Experian were working with other Diocese on how data could be improved by
21 geographical ward or postcode so it was agreed to explore the possibilities.

6 Transforming Notts Together

22 David McCoulough, Director of Partnerships & Mission, presented DS/Apr14/3. A
23 volunteer tool was available on the website to enable cross parish work and help with
24 projects.

25 A community money course had been developed focussed on church leaders or
26 organisers on basic budgeting which can then be relayed to others.

27 Signposting training was available to equip churches to empower each other and
28 enables people to have the confidence to direct those in need to the right services.

29 The key priorities for 2013-16 were to develop winter shelters across Notts and
30 extend the provision by churches in Nottingham and Mansfield.

31 Questions were taken.

7 **Article 8: Women in the Episcopate**

32 Nigel Spraggins presented paper DS/Apr14/4. General Synod had discussed again
33 and the House of Bishops made it clear that there would always be provision for the
34 breadth of the Anglican Church as it stood. The other question raised was how
35 matters of dispute of grievance would be dealt with. There would always be a code
36 of practice but the details of such could not be worked out until it was agreed. This
37 time there had been a broader discussion on procedures and a more simple
38 legislation was arrived at. There could be no amendment to the motion and it would
39 be counted vote.

40 Mrs Pam Bishop, Chair of the House of Laity, spoke from General Synod
41 perspective. The legislation was straight forward. Consideration was required for the
42 whole package, ie, Bishop's declaration and grievance procedures. General Synod
43 were keen that it was light in legislation but heavily balanced by grace and love.
44 General Synod had seen some remarkable changes with a new Archbishop. There
45 were a significant number of new Bishops in the recent years and they had been
46 much clearer and open about their own positions. It meant that the House of Bishops
47 had taken the collective responsibility more seriously.

48 The 8 women clergy who were invited to speak showed a different and more open
49 process. Canon David Porter was appointed from the Reconciliation Centre in
50 Coventry. The group work was very different and all view points were taken into
51 consideration with a powerful strategy.

52
53 After July meetings, role play took place in GS which was a very significant change.
54 A steering group was set up and they had a facilitated discussion process when they
55 met. The steering group brought the whole package back to General Synod. Any
56 amendments were dealt with at Synod rather than it going away to the Revision
57 Committee. The decision would return to Synod in July - 25 Diocese so far had
58 voted for women Bishop's.

59 John chapter 15 – you did not choose me, I chose you.

60 Fr Nicolas Spicer, Vicar, Worksop Priory, encouraged Synod to vote against. The
61 vote came about not because of the Catholics and conservative Evangelicals but
62 between them they could not muster a majority. The liberals voted against as they
63 wanted women bishops but not at this price. A quarter of the Diocese said yes but
64 the follow on motion did not go far enough.

65 Fr Nicolas acknowledged there had been a see change in the way General Synod
66 operated and the current situation was due to the rules and timeline changing and
67 the pressures that had been bowed to stated a conclusion must be drawn in 2014.
68 Fr Nicolas questioned what was the rush? Not only was the process rushed but
69 people were being asked to vote on the House of Bishop's declaration and would
70 something that is bound in law be better. It was a big ask to vote for something when
71 the content was unknown.

72 In 20 years of working to appoint Catholics and conservative Evangelicals one
73 Diocese voted no, 2 had Catholics appointed to say yes to something that had not
74 been written down yet and no conservative evangelicals were appointed.
75

76 God was saying to Fr Nicolas that he had a place in the Church of England. Many
77 churches are growing and all have been asked to be included in the life of the Church
78 of England in the future. Fr Nicolas asked that a great deal was heard in the diocese
79 about seeking justice so asked that the legislation be just to all who call themselves
80 loyal members of the Church of England.

81
82 Robert Cleave, Nottingham South Deanery, was in favour but highlighted there were
83 no representatives from the House of Bishops today, and was approval required from
84 all 3 houses. Nigel Spraggins confirmed that the Bishop's had a direct vote in
85 General Synod so the critical votes were for the House of Laity and the House of
86 Clergy.

87 The Rt Revd John Guille, Dean, thanked those who had contributed and he felt
88 privileged to propose the motion. John reiterated that the process had not been
89 rushed.

90 John proposed *that this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops
91 and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and draft Amending
92 Canon No 33*

93 LAITY: in favour 29 against: 1 Abstentions 0
94 CLERGY: in favour 29 against 2 Abstentions 0
95 The motion was carried.

8 DAC Annual Report

96 Diocesan Synod received the report DS/Apr14/5. Keith Turner confirmed that the
97 report was written by Jonathan Pickett, DAC Secretary. Keith formally thanked
98 Jonathan. Keith talked through the purpose and work of the DAC.

99 Before lunch, Peter Hill, Archdeacon of Nottingham gave thanks on behalf of
100 Diocesan Synod for the Dean's ministry in the Diocese over the past 7 years.

10 2020 Deployment

101 Diocesan Synod received a report (DS/Apr14/6) on the work to date of Bishop's
102 Council. Major consultation had taken place over the last 18 months and huge credit
103 went to the leadership teams and the 2020 design team. There had been
104 discernment at various levels, nothing was written in stone. Peter Hill talked through
105 the criteria for the deanery plans. There were still 3.8 posts to allocate. Peter
106 described the process relating to the new Ministry Opportunity Posts.

107 Nigel Spraggins introduced the Third Archdeaconry. The Third Archdeaconry was
108 responding to Deanery, Bishop's Council and Synod needs. Nigel described the
109 statutory posts required and how they linked to the 3 strands. It was highlighted that
110 2014 v 2008 showed a slight reduction in the FTE in the Third Archdeaconry. More
111 importantly there were fewer chiefs and more direct work taking place.

112 Statutory refers to church law so statutory posts were Diocesan Secretary, DDE,
113 Diocesan Surveyor, DAC secretary. Then there were Quasi-statutory posts such as
114 the Director of Finance (& team), DDO, Ministry Development Adviser, Schools
115 Advisers.

116 Living Worship/Growing Disciples = education, ministry development, sports
117 ambassador.

118 Growing disciples = giving team.

119 Seeking Justice = partnership & mission team. 3 strands = everyone!

120 Past, present and future options were difficult without the support of 3 categories, self
121 supporting ministers ordained, self supporting ministers lay, active retired. Without
122 everyone, the plans do not exist.

11 DBE Annual Report

123 Peter Hill introduced the report and highlighted demand, response and capacity.
124 Constant change was here to stay!

125 Claire Meese, Director of Education, stated that in summer 2013 a report was
126 produced as a follow on from the Church School of the future. It had a summary of
127 10 key things that a high performing DBE should have in place, this was tabled for
128 Synod members. The aim was to be distinctive, inclusive, effective, rooted.

129 The annual report was noted.

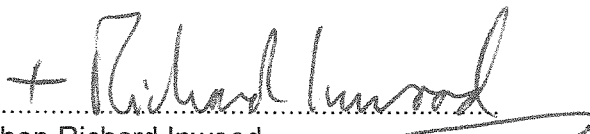
12 Close & Blessing

13 Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 8 November 2014, venue to be confirmed.

ENDS

Signed:


Bishop Richard Inwood
Acting Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham