

MINUTES OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD**Held on 12 October 2019 at St Jude's (Mapperley) Nottingham****1. Welcome and Introductions**

1 Nigel shared that Grenville Gibson had passed away on 7 October 2019. He had been
2 Churchwarden at St Ann with Emmanuel, Nottingham for over 40 years. He had been the
3 Lay Chair of Diocesan Synod for a few years and a member of Bishop's Council. His
4 funeral would take place on 22 October 2019 at 12noon at St Ann with Emmanuel,
5 Nottingham. Nigel gave thanks to God for his tremendous service.

2. Worship

6 Worship was led by The Revd Sam Hustwayte, Gedling Deanery.

3. Apologies for Absence

7 Apologies were received from 8 members of the House of Clergy and 12 members of the
8 House of Laity.

4. Minutes

9 The minutes of the meeting on 27 April 2019 were approved as an accurate record and
10 were signed by Bishop Paul.

5. Matters Arising

11 No matters arising were received.

6. Report on Business conducted at Bishop's Council

12 Canon Nigel Spraggins presented paper 2 which was self explanatory and gave a flavour
13 of business conducted at Bishop's Council since Synod last met.

14 The Interviews for a Diocesan Director of Education would take place on 4 November
15 2019.

16 Nigel took this opportunity to share a video on the Big Church Survey which all members
17 were encouraged to participate in. Mr Neil Peake was part of the National Advisory Group
18 for the Big Church Survey, of which Southwell & Nottingham were a pilot Diocese. There
19 were more details available on the website.

7. Promulgation of Amending Canon No 39

20 The Revd Canon Mark Adams read the following:

21 *"I give notice that, at its July 2019 group of sessions held in York, the General Synod*
22 *resolved that the Amending Canon No 39 be made, promulgated and executed.*

23 *Amending Canon No.39 amends Canon B 11 (Of Morning and Evening Prayer in parish*
24 *churches), Canon B14 (Of Holy Communion in parish churches), Canon B 14A (Of*
25 *services in churches and other places of worship), Canon C 5 (Of the titles of such as*
26 *are to be ordained deacons or priests), Canon C 8 (Of ministers exercising their*
27 *ministry), Canon E 2 (Of sidesmen or assistants to the churchwardens), Canon E 8 (Of*
28 *the admission and licensing of lay workers) and makes other minor amendments to the*
29 *Canons."*

8. Bishop's Address

30 The Bishop's address is appended to these minutes.

31 Bishop Paul was deeply thankful for the contributions of The Ven David Picken, Canon
32 Nigel Spraggins and The Rt Revd Bishop Tony Porter for their contributions and individual
33 callings. He expressed on behalf of Synod the immense gratitude to Nigel, David and
34 Bishop Tony for serving the Lord in this Diocese.

35 Nigel's leaving service would be: 14 November 2019 at 1.00pm. Bishop Paul presented
36 Nigel with a gift as a reminder of his ministry in the Diocese and the ongoing ministry of
37 his lay Canon role at the Minster, with a cross made from stained glass.

9. The Role that Local Church Can Play with Regards to Community Cohesion at this time in our National Life

38 The Revd David McCoulough presented on the above. This was in the context of issues,
39 debates, frustrations and confusions relating to Brexit but also the wider context of
40 community cohesion: future of the planet, creation and also the real issue of economic
41 deprivation in the country.

42 In terms of what involvement the Diocese had, there were examples at a strategic level:
43 engagement with different faiths and sectors within the Society; One Nottingham
44 Partnership, Multi Agency Forum Refugees, Notts Hate Crime Steering Group and
45 interfaith relationships (Near Neighbours CUF/TNT and Learning Well Together with the
46 Education Department and St Philips Centre).

47 Nottingham Citizens was about realising that the community was not powerless.
48 Christians and people from Anglican churches were helping things to change. There
49 would be announcements shortly from organisations paying the real living wage which
50 was due to Nottingham Citizens campaigning. They also bought hope on a very practical
51 level. TNT: various networks to enable people to transform their community together.
52 They offered assistance in getting started and thinking about how well a group knew their
53 context; helping to think and reflect and assist in getting started in the community. There
54 was a map of community cafes where conversations could happen and progress.

55 The Church of England nationally had produced resources on how to have good
56 conversations: tea and prayer. There was also a link to the New Wine Brexit Talk which
57 shared 12 things to do (practical actions of love that Christians and churches can do).

58 A copy of the Christian Response to Brexit was shared (produced by Oxford Diocese).
59 Discussion at tables took place concerning what local churches could do and brief
60 feedback was invited.

10. Budget 2020

61 Canon Michael Arlington opened the discussion on the 2020 budget by asking Synod if
62 there were any questions following the paperwork they had read. It was felt that there
63 were much clearer explanations this year so Michael formally thanked Mrs Rebecca
64 Bowes. Michael continued to contextualise the financial position of the Diocese. The aim
65 was for a breakeven budget over 3 years. However, the amount of parish share had
66 increasingly been below for a balanced budget. Small surpluses had been achieved. The
67 Strategic Development Funds were providing the Diocese with a cash injection for
68 additional posts but to fund these additional posts when SDF ceased, the annual income
69 needed to rise faster than the 3% above inflation plan.

70 Over the next few years the realignment, focusing on discipleship making posts, had
71 reduced the annual running costs, investment income reduced after 2021, SDF funded
72 posts were time limited but breakeven budgeting remained the plan.

73 The Diocese had some large income figures coming through if some of the SDF posts
74 were filled. The money was only received if an appointment was made. A reminder on
75 page 12 was given of 4 additional posts in 2020, despite the vacancy level staying the
76 same. The Direct Ministry Costs were on page 13 which were rising significantly with 10
77 additional posts funded by Church Commissioners money. The Diocese was now
78 operating on 30 curates (including costs of training and housing).

79 Michael talked members through the Deanery share draft transition calculations.

80 In summary: the Diocese planned more Priests to lead the churches to make more
81 disciples. However, priests were in short supply and recruitment was difficult. Funds
82 continued to be received from the Church Commissioners via LICF (to 2026) and SDF (to
83 2024). The Diocese would continue to review the cost base. The plan was to reduce
84 reliance on outside funding by moving to pay the full parish share. Some parishes in some
85 Deaneries had to do more.

86 The question of “What encourages you?” and “What questions do you have in light of your
87 own context?” were discussed at tables.

88 *Motion: that Diocesan Synod affirms the 2020 Diocesan Budget as set out in paper*
89 *DS/Oct19/3*

90 The motion was proposed by Canon Michael Arlington, seconded by Mr Michael Wilson.
91 The motion was carried with 2 abstentions.

11. Growing Disciples Update

92 Nigel encouraged everyone to complete their financial statistics for future forecasts.
93 Members would be given a report on their departure on SDF.

94 Nigel was the Chair of the Capacity Building Group and he shared a video on new
95 worshipping communities. The important word from the video was EVERYONE. A NWC
96 could be organised by anyone.

97 An increased number of applications had been received to the Growing Younger Disciples
98 fund. Growing NWC was about mindset and the guiding of the spirit. God had provided
99 many talented people and every opportunity should be used to make the growth midset
100 central. It was not always the money that would make the difference, but how disciples
101 responded. Videos were shared from St Margaret's Aspley and Gamston Connect.
102 Gamston was the first to go through the grant process. Nigel encouraged conversations
103 with Neil Peake and Tors Ramsey. Applications would then be submitted to the Advisory
104 Group followed by the Core Team.

12. Safeguarding

105 Bishop Paul stated that the adoption of these policies was important for Diocesan Synod.
106 Everyone in the room had probably been affected by a safeguarding matter or knew
107 someone who had.

108 The Diocese was very clear that the primary responsibility sat with Bishop Paul but he
109 shared that with Diocesan Synod members and all God's people. Those who were
110 Bishop's officers had significant statutory responsibilities. The church was a much safer
111 place for children and vulnerable adults than it had been in the past and it would continue
112 to be in the future. It impacted on mission today and in the future and was part of the
113 mission and our Christian responsibility.

114 The Practice Guidance & Policies were adopted by Diocesan Synod and carried nem con.

13. Vacancy in the See of Sherwood

115 Canon Nigel Spraggins talked members through the 3 stage process. Approval was given
116 from the Diocese Commission to nominate a Bishop to the vacant See. The identification
117 and nomination of a new Bishop then took place with final approval being from the Crown.
118 Bishop Paul would select an Advisory Group to work with him.

119 The timeline was shared with an advertisement in January and a July consecration date.
120 Bishop Paul offered 2 questions for consideration:

121 What opportunities might the appointment of a new Suffragan bring to the life of our
122 Diocese at this time?

123 Are there specific missional needs which you would like the Bishop's Advisory Group to
124 be aware of?

125 Discussion took place around tables and flipchart notes taken.

14. Questions

126 *In light of the Synod commitment of the Church of England 'to work... towards achieving*
127 *a genuine peace through the elimination [of nuclear weapons]', how will the diocese be*
128 *engaging in this work and how can church members in Southwell and Nottingham best*
129 *support it, especially who can they contact in connection with this?*

130 *Marylyn Rayner (Newark and Southwell Deanery)*

Answer:

131 This question refers to a motion passed by the General Synod in July 2018 which read:
132 'That this Synod, mindful that a faithful commemoration of the centenary of the 1918
133 Armistice must commit the Church afresh to peace building; and conscious that nuclear
134 weapons, through their indiscriminate and destructive potential, present a distinct category
135 of weaponry that requires Christians to work tirelessly for their elimination across the
136 world:

137 a) welcome the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the clear
138 signal it sends by a majority of UN Member States that nuclear weapons are both
139 dangerous and unnecessary;

140 b) call on Her Majesty's Government to respond positively to the UN Treaty on the
141 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by reiterating publicly its obligations under Article VI of
142 the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its strategy for meeting them;

143 c) commit the Church of England to work with its Anglican Communion and ecumenical
144 partners in addressing the regional and international security concerns which drive nations
145 to possess and seek nuclear weapons and to work towards achieving a genuine peace
146 through their elimination.

147 This motion was aimed at the Church of England at a national level engaging with the
148 Government and other members of the Anglican Communion and therefore it is not
149 envisaged that we will engage at a Diocesan level.

150 For those church members that wish to engage more fully with this, further information
151 can be found on the Christians for Nuclear Disarmament website.
152 <https://christiancnd.org.uk/cofebantreaty/>

15. Close

153 Canon Nigel Spraggins encouraged members to bring questions and also Deanery Synod
154 motions.

Bishop's Address

155 In my address to this Synod I want to reflect on the life and mission of the diocese in terms of
156 *'Tipping Points and Pivotal Moments'*. Part of the responsibility of those who share leadership in
157 any organisation is to discern what season we are presently in: is this a season of growth or
158 decline, stability or change, season of heightened threat or increased opportunity.

159 In my experience those pairs nearly always go together: where the Spirit is at work some things
160 will be *growing* while other things are *declining*, a measure of *stability* is vital to sustain essential
161 *change*, and the only sustained *threat* to an organisation is when *opportunities* are missed or
162 ignored.

163 I believe we are at a 'tipping point' as a diocese moving through a season of growth spiritually
164 and numerically that will, over the next five years, continue to revitalize the ministry of the church
165 in every part of the diocese and by God's grace lead to overall numerical growth.

166 I do not think what Archbishop Justin said at a conference in 2016 was simply vague and well-
167 meaning optimism when he spoke about 'a new springtime' in the Church of England. What has
168 been happening since then in the national church and in our diocese unquestionably bears this
169 out.

170 But before I go any further I want to remind us of the scale of our vision – a photo of our world
171 from space! We are part of a world-wide Church: the Holy Spirit sees no borders and boundaries
172 when it comes to our primary identity as Christian people. We are citizens of heaven, co-workers
173 with Christ as his body on earth. We share a mission that belongs not to us but to God – 'for God
174 so loved the world'.

175 Our partnerships across the world are vitally important to our spiritual health. Whatever present
176 challenges or opportunities we face, we are part of a world-church where the kingdom of God is
177 expanding more quickly than we are often aware as our vision is constrained by western eyes.

178 Over the next year I want us to review our global links in preparation for Lambeth 2020 and, where
179 it is not yet the case, for every church to develop a meaningful relationship with a church overseas.

180 When it comes to the transforming mission of God in this diocese, I am greatly encouraged by
181 what the Lord is doing among us and through us. We have a clear strategic framework and bold
182 aspirations for further growth. I can confidently report that people are becoming followers of Christ
183 in every part of the diocese, new worshipping communities are being established, larger and
184 smaller churches are embracing a vision to be 'resourcing churches' (growing to give themselves
185 away), younger and newer leaders are being inspired, equipped and commissioned, and there is
186 an increasing sense that we are co-partners in one glorious mission not competitors in a shrinking
187 market.

188 In terms of our spiritual and numerical growth we are at a tipping point which I believe will be the
189 case over the next 3-5 years. We must hold our nerve and continually renew our confidence in
190 God, so that we will make the most of the pivotal moments that always advance the gospel. We
191 must also renew our commitment to resource our present levels of ministry through the Parish
192 Share even as we are thankful for the funding for new opportunities for mission coming from the
193 Church Commissioners ('Strategic Development Funding').

194 I want to share in outline some of the work from our recent Bishop's Council Residential. Looking
195 at *'Tipping Points and Pivotal Moments'* from the perspective of the Acts of the Apostles. See the
196 slides attached – link to slides.

197 The consequence of following the leading of the Holy Spirit in mission will always mean *Radical*
198 *Change* – this has been the case for the Church from Pentecost to today. I am not thinking
199 primarily about issues relating to the church's engagement with shifts in the society it is seeking
200 to reach, so much as the shape and character of its ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

201 The radical change should begin in our lives as disciples of Christ as we daily learn what it means
202 to live with Jesus, live like Jesus and live for Jesus.

203 *Radical Change requires Radical Holy Love* and that is the central challenge of Christian
204 discipleship as it is taught by the apostle Peter in his first epistle. This will be the focus biblical
205 text for the Lambeth Conference 2020.

206 For now I simply draw your attention to these verses from chapter 4, recognising that in our current
207 national climate of uncertainty and division over Brexit, the Church is called to express radical
208 holy love and hospitality in Jesus' name. Link to the reading 1 Peter 4:7-11

209 This brings us back to where we started – the world for which Christ died and rose again.
210 Whatever you may be facing in your life at present I want to thank you for your continued part in
211 the transforming mission of God. I know that many of you carry scars from seeking to join in this
212 mission, taking up your cross daily following Jesus. I therefore close by inviting you to listen to a
213 song I heard for the first time this past week. It reflects on the way God's good purposes in our
214 lives and his church are most often brought about through times of uncertainty and struggle. We
215 do not lose heart because of the scars that Christ still wears for us, his radical holy love for the
216 world he came to redeem. *Link to the song: Scars by I AM THEY - Trial & Triumph*