**Diocesan Synod Digest November 2022**

The Diocesan Synod took place on Saturday 19 November 2022 at The Showroom, Tritton Road, Lincoln. The Chair of the meeting was the Revd Cameron Watt, Chair of the House of Clergy, who was elected at the last meeting in July. He asked Ruth Brewin, Trustee and Lay co-lead for NE Lincolnshire, and Kate Hutchinson, Lay chair for Grimsby and Cleethorpes to start the meeting with Dwelling in the Word. The Dwelling in the Word passage was Hebrews 12:1-3 & 12-14. A quiet reflection followed, and then feedback was invited about what the reading meant to members. Linda French (Haverstoe), Revd Canon Sonia Barron, Mark Suthern (Graffoe), and The Ven Dr Justine Allain Chapman all shared their responses from their groups. The conversations had included navigating each day with the help of God, seeking peace with everyone, showing respect, togetherness with images of Moses’ hands being held up, and perusing a straight path on a park run. Ruth Brewin drew the reflections to a close with prayer.

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Acting Bishop of Lincoln then officially opened the meeting with his presidential addres.

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 16th July were approved.

The next agenda item was Questions under Standing Order No 72.

The next item was a Vacancy in See update by The Venerable Gavin Kirk, Archdeacon of Lincoln. Archdeacon Gavin confirmed that, following the resignation of Bishop Christopher Lowson in December 2021, the Vacancy in See committee of the diocese has been meeting to consult on and prepare a statement of needs to describe the diocese, and what it is looking for in the next bishop. As part of its work, the committee also elected by ballot from amongst its members representatives to be members of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC). The CNC shortlists and interviews candidates. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are also members, alongside six elected members from General Synod. The election was held at its recent meeting, and the CNC members chosen are: Canon Nigel Bacon, The Revd Sonia Barron, Canon Professor Muriel Robinson, Mrs Sue Slater, The Revd Cameron Watt and The Ven Gavin Kirk.

The Archdeacon of Lincoln expressed his thanks to everyone who helped with the committee, the voting, the appointments set up for the appointments’ secretaries, and the design of the Statement of Needs.

The Venerable Alyson Buxton, Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey shared with Synod how far the “Time to Change Together” programme had come. She explained that there was still much work to be done, and that, without the support of the whole Diocese, it would be an uphill struggle. The November report had been sent out with the papers and can be found [here](https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=51884bf1-b787-4da1-a000-d32b9c814a81). Archdeacon Aly highlighted what had been achieved and what was still being discussed and organised. Each table was then given a sheet for Table talk. Members were asked to discuss and write down their thoughts on the following three points:

1. What does it mean for you that you do not walk or run alone but are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses"? How are they our supporters?
2. What could we improve so that our shared TTCT journey could be better/more fruitful in 2023?
3. What are your reflections on the work and progress so far?

After the discussion feedback the papers were collected at the end of the meeting for reflection.

Canon Nigel Bacon introduced the next item on Synodical matters for review:

1. For Synod to approve the recommended method of calculating the parochial representation of the laity onto Deanery Synods for the 2023 elections, as being based on electoral roll numbers.
2. For Synod to approve the new version of the Standing Orders, to be published along with recent updates made by BCDT to various committee terms of reference, as soon as possible.

Both recommendations were approved.

The Revd Cameron Watt announced that the election to the Search and Nominations Committee had taken place, and that Mrs Ruth Brewin and Canon Niccy Fisher had been elected to the Committee.

After a short refreshment break, the 2023 Budget was presented by Canon Prof Muriel Robinson and Mrs Ann Treacy. Muriel and Ann presented some slides to show the key messages, and the good news that expenditure is more than the five-year TTCT plan by £792,890, and better than 2022 expenditure budget by £388,834. However, there is still more work to be done.

Following questions and discussion, the Budget was approved by Synod.

Mr Jack Redeyoff, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, gave an update on safeguarding, and shared with Synod that a new Diocesan Safeguarding advisory Panel chair had been appointed. Sally Hodges has a vast knowledge of safeguarding with vulnerable children and adults. Jack continued his update with a reminder that it was Safeguarding Sunday the following day, and there are lots of resources to be had on the 31:8 website for this. Jack finished his presentation with Pathfinders. Pathfinders is a pilot scheme the Diocese has signed up to. It is a programme that focuses on the IICSA report points 1 & 8: Supervision and Quality Assurance.

The Environmental Policy Review saw Mrs Sarah Spencer, Discipleship in the World Officer, and the Diocesan Surveyor, Mr Andrew Drummond-Hunt, making a presentation to update Synod on the Diocese’s progress with the net zero policy for 2030.

The Closing Prayer and Blessing was given by The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Acting Bishop of Lincoln.