

REPORT OF THE DIOCESE OF BRECHIN SYNOD

HELD ON SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2023

IN ST NINIAN'S DUNDEE

The meeting began with a sung Eucharist, presided over by Bishop Andrew who reminded us that the mission of the church needs financial resources to succeed.

SESSION 1

Synod was asked to receive the annual report and accounts for 2022-23. Bob Martin presented a statement of financial activities including income and expenditure accounts and a balance sheet as of 30 November 2023. I have copies of said figures should anyone wish to peruse them. Total income for the year was £282.111 and total expenditure was £318.920 of which £76.578 was used from a designated fund supporting ministry. Good news is that investments have increased in value and the diocese has total assets of over £3million. The motion to receive the annual reports and accounts for 2022-23 was approved by Synod.

Canon Jim Benton-Evans introduced a presentation about a Festival of Lay Ministry to be held on 5 April 2025, in the Cathedral. It is to be an occasion to celebrate lay ministry in all its forms. Discussion followed about the venue being unsuitable for disabled people, and the date during the Easter school holidays, further discussion will be held by those organising the event.

Reverend Mark-Aaron Tisdale mentioned 'Cursillo' as a vehicle for encouraging and deepening spiritual life.

SESSION 2: MISSION AND MINISTRY – A HEALTHY DIOCESE HEALTHY CHURCHES, HEALTHY LEADERS AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

- Over the past few years, there has been an increase in charges with Transitional ministries which are now coming to an end and no longer term models are being worked on.
- There has been much work done in the past few years on handling conflict well with support from the Place of Hope and helping charges approach change with the concept of transitional ministry.
- Net Zero is beginning to gain momentum with decisions being made about disposal of buildings, heating solutions, etc.
- In small groups, Synod was asked to discuss:
 - what does success look like in terms of ordained ministry?
 - Is there an appetite to continue with full time clergy, shared between churches?
 - Is this a healthy model for clergy ministry?
 - What do churches feel about lay ministry teams?
 - Supporting clergy in their ministry?
 - What does success look like?
 - Is it an opportunity to develop patterns of shared ministry?
 - Is it counting 'bums' on seats
 - Money in the bank?
 - How do we measure success?
 - Is it about relationships – with God, with each other and communities?
 - An overview of ongoing mission and ministry
 - A review of ministry support funded from reserves
 - An update of plan for shared ministry in Dundee as part of the planning for the future.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH: VISION AND DIRECTION

Reverend Claire Benton-Evans, Diocesan Children and Youth Officer, presented an item about work that is taking place in the Diocese. She called it a vision of 'hope and growth' and followed on with a presentation about welcoming families into our church.

SESSION 3: BUDGET, QUOTA AND APPOINTMENTS

Budget and quota for 2025: Bob Main presented the Diocesan budget for the financial year December 2024 – November 2025 and Synod was asked to approve the Diocesan budget and the associated charge quota levels for 2025.

Synod was advised that there will be no rise on quota for the next financial year, which was approved.

Planning for support for healthy churches: projected ministry support for charges including the reserves that may be required for clergy support. A discussion followed: is the church value for money?

Bob Main advised Synod that mission grants of up to £5000 were still available.

SPRING SYNOD

Will take place on Saturday 1 March 2025 in St Mary's Church, Broughty Ferry.

Elaine Hammersley
Lay Representative