



DIOCESAN SYNOD SYNOD QUESTIONS NOTICE PAPER

Question 1

Q Fr Martin Hislop [Kingston Deanery]

What are the current projects/undertakings of the Department of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and who is involved in this work?

A The Diocesan Secretary

Current work being undertaken by the team includes:

- Work to tackle Serious Youth Violence, including first aid training events for young people and engagement with the Synergy Network;
- Work to support asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, including Hong Kong Welcome, working with the Croydon Refugee Day Centre, and working with the London Borough of Southwark to support asylum seekers and refugees in hotels;
- Organising an event to reflect on the effects of Covid on Winter Night Shelters and the future of homelessness support;
- Overseeing the work of Together Southwark, the Diocesan charity which tackles poverty, and working to develop a new strategic approach with the Board;
- Raising awareness of Modern Day Slavery in the Diocese including Diocesan participation in a recent Hidden Voices training event run by London Diocese, working with the Clewer Initiative, and supporting Archdeacon Alastair Cutting on a recent General Synod motion against Modern Slavery;
- Environment work includes responding to the Church of England's consultation on the Routemap to Carbon Net Zero, rolling out Carbon Literacy training across the Diocese, monthly Eco Church webinars, and working with and supporting parishes as they work towards Eco Church awards;
- Raising awareness of social and environmental justice through a range of blogs and social media posts offering prayer suggestions and ideas for taking action on various issues. Blogs so far this year have included 'Loving the Stranger' themed around refugee welcome and Holocaust Memorial Day, and one around tackling Serious Youth Violence;
- Attending and speaking at events including Deanery Synods, and supporting churches and Deaneries to develop their social justice work.

Question 2

Q Fr Martin Hislop [Kingston Deanery]

How many ordinands are currently in training for the Diocese in terms of Stipendiary Ministry and Self-Supporting Ministry and what training courses are involved?

A The Diocesan Secretary

We currently have 35 ordinands in training. Of which, we expect that 10 will be non-stipendiary and 25 will be stipendiary. Of the 35, 8 are training residentially and 27 are training non-residentially.

In the past three years we have sent ordinands to the following residential colleges: Cranmer Hall, Mirfield, Oak Hill, Queen's Foundation, Ridley Hall, Ripon College Cuddesdon, St Stephen's House, Westcott House, Wycliffe Hall; and to the following non-residential colleges: St Augustine's and St Mellitus.

Question 3

Q The Revd Dr Catherine Shelley [Eltham & Mottingham Deanery]

Before the Covid 19 pandemic General Synod changed the proportion of funeral fees making 100% payable to the Diocese. Southwark undertook to designate those funds for parish mission, in a fund to which parishes could apply for particular projects.

What has happened to this fund? Is this fund still so designated in the wake of the pandemic? Were any applications ever made?

If these funds are now going into general Diocesan coffers should Synod - and the ministers who earn those fees - not have been told?

A The Diocesan Secretary

In 2020 the £30 fee previously due to a PCC following a funeral service was made payable to the Diocese.

It was decided that for 2020 the £30s received would be accumulated in the Southwark Vision fund to resource mission and ministry. The fees have therefore been transferred to the Southwark Vision Development Fund which receives funds from a number of sources.

Parishes were asked to contribute ideas for the fund but there was no formal application process. In the light of the question we will publicise the amount available from the fee that was previously passed to parishes and discuss with the Archdeacons how parishes should apply.

Question 4

Q Paula Brackenridge [Richmond & Barnes Deanery]

The Diocesan Environmental Policy states that "*subject to resources, (the Diocese is committed to) developing a plan to maintain our vicarages to be as environmentally friendly and low-carbon as possible*".

What progress has been made towards developing this plan? Do you feel that this should be a priority as failing to prioritise the insulation of clergy housing prejudices General Synod's declaration that the Church of England should be net zero by 2030?

A The Diocesan Secretary

The Diocese is committed to developing plans to make our parsonages as environmentally friendly as possible. It is a key priority for us in the context of our ambition in our Diocese to work towards Carbon Net Zero by 2035, and is included within Annual objectives. It is also important to us to provide comfortable, well maintained and energy efficient homes for our clergy and their wellbeing, especially in the context of rising fuel prices.

We have begun gathering information, through condition surveys and other means, on parsonages in relation to energy efficiency, and will be moving to a more planned approach to building maintenance from 2023. This change will allow a focus on energy improvements where feasible and cost effective, including installing insulation and double-glazing where possible as these contribute significantly to the energy efficiency of a building.

In the meantime, we continue to consider the opportunity for environmental improvements and cost effective 'easy wins' when we carry out major refurbishments.