

THE DIOCESE OF CYPRUS AND THE GULF

2018 DIOCESAN SYNOD MINUTES

The Synod of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf was held at the Golden Bay Hotel, Larnaca, from Monday 5th to Friday 9th February 2018.

2018/01 WELCOME, ESSENTIAL NOTICES, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

CHAIRMAN: THE RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL LEWIS

Bishop Michael opened with prayer. He welcomed all present and essential notices were given, the theme for this year's Synod being "Social Liturgy: Doing God and Doing Good". The Bishop referred to the spiritual addresses to be given by the Venerable Christopher Futcher, Archdeacon of Exeter, the Reverend Canon Andy Bowerman, Anglican Alliance, and the Venerable Robert Jones, Archdeacon of Worcester.

Bishop Michael made special mention of the absence of Father Faiz Jerjes of St George's Baghdad, who was supporting his wife Mrs Nawal George through her mother's illness, and of Mr Dawlat Aboona and his wife Mrs Nada Tafankchi, en route to Synod from Baghdad.

Bishop Michael introduced special guests from the companion Dioceses of Cyprus and the Gulf: the Right Reverend Julius Wanyoike, Anglican Bishop of Thika, and his colleague Mrs Annah Njogu; and the Venerable Christopher Futcher, Archdeacon of Exeter, and his colleague Mrs Sue Parks.

2018/02 GREETINGS TO AND FROM SYNOD

Bishop Michael conveyed greetings from Bishop Clive Handford and his wife Jane, and from the Venerable Dr Ian Young.

2018/03 ORDINATIONS, ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND DEATHS

Bishop Michael reported that since the last Synod, the Reverend Harry Ching, Curate in Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates, and the Reverend Zhu Peijin, Curate in Kuwait, had been ordained priests. The Reverend Charlie Lloyd-Evans had been ordained deacon to serve as Curate in the parish of Abu Dhabi. The Reverend Canon Derek Smith, previously a member of Bishop's Council and Standing and Finance Committee, had retired to Bath with his wife Sue from the incumbency of St Barnabas Limassol. The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last had moved to the incumbency of the parish of Ammochostos from that of Leiston in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The Reverend Canon Dr Michael Mbona, with his wife Christine, had moved from being Dean of St John the Baptist Cathedral in Mutare in the Diocese of Manicaland in Zimbabwe to the incumbency of St Paul's Kuwait. Deacon Douglas Rasiah was on placement at St Mark's Famagusta in the parish of Ammochostos from the parish of Epiphany in Qatar. Dr Helen Perry had joined Diocesan staff as Administration Officer.

Bishop Michael informed Synod of the deaths of the Reverend Michael Darby, parish priest of St Martin's Sharjah from 1990 to 1992; Mrs Fowzia Ghais Abdul Malik, widow of Ghais Abdul Malik, former Bishop in Egypt; and Mrs Joan Parkinson, widow of John Parkinson, previously Provost of St Christopher's Cathedral Bahrain.

Bishop Michael announced the imminent departure of the Reverend Jon Lavelle, priest of St Luke's Ras al-Khaimah and St Nicholas' Fujairah, to join his wife Karen in Canada. He would be succeeded by the Reverend Kent Middleton, Curate at St Paul's Cathedral in Nicosia. The Reverend

Bertrand Olivier, incumbent of All Hallows by the Tower—the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf’s official base in the UK—and friend and supporter of the Diocese, had been appointed Dean of Montreal Cathedral. The Reverend Canon Dr Andrew Mayes, currently of the villages of East Blatchington and Bishopstone in the county of Sussex in the Diocese of Chichester, for which he was also Spirituality Adviser, was due to take up the incumbency of St Barnabas’ Limassol and serve as Spirituality Adviser in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. Two clerical Canons were to be installed on 23rd February in St Christopher’s Cathedral Bahrain, the Reverend Jebaraj Devasagayam and the Reverend Stephen Thanapaul; and one lay Canon, Mrs Angela Murray, MBE; and on 3rd May in St Paul’s Cathedral Nicosia, the Reverend Paul Burt, the Reverend Brian Elliott and the Reverend Bertrand Olivier.

Lastly, the Bishop announced the retirement of Mrs Anetta Stylianou from the post of Administrative Secretary after almost 30 years.

2018/04 **INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman introduced members of Synod, guests and observers, as well as office staff.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Right Reverend Michael Lewis Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf

STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Canon John Banfield	United Kingdom
Mrs Angela Murray	Bahrain
Mrs Christine Taylor	Limassol

HOUSE OF CLERGY

The Venerable Dr John Holdsworth	Executive Archdeacon – Larnaca
The Venerable Dr Bill Schwartz	Archdeacon in the Gulf
The Reverend Charlie Lloyd-Evans	Abu Dhabi
The Reverend Gill Nisbet	Abu Dhabi
The Reverend Canon Andy Thompson	Abu Dhabi
The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last	Ammochostos
The Very Reverend Christopher Butt	Bahrain
The Reverend Stephen Thanapaul	Bahrain
Mr Chuck Reischman	Canterbury Group
The Reverend Harry Ching	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
The Reverend Harrison Chinnakumar	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
The Reverend Tim Heaney	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
The Reverend Jon Lavelle	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
The Reverend Drew Schmotzer	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
The Reverend Canon Michael Mbona	Kuwait
The Reverend Wendy Hough	Kyrenia
The Reverend Geoff Graham	Larnaca
The Reverend Christine Goldsmith	Limassol
The Very Reverend Jeremy Crocker	Nicosia
The Reverend Kent Middleton	Nicosia
The Reverend Chris Howitz	Oman
The Reverend Andrew Burt	Paphos
The Reverend Canon Anthony Stidolph	Paphos
The Reverend Paul Davies	Qatar
The Reverend Jebaraj Devasagayam	Qatar
The Reverend Dr Paul Burt	Mission to Seafarers

The Reverend Nelson Fernandez
Mr Ken Wiseman

Mission to Seafarers
Mission to Seafarers

HOUSE OF LAITY

Mrs Sue Partridge	Abu Dhabi
Mr Russell Gale	Abu Dhabi
Mr Phil Crookes	Ammochostos
Mr Peter Day	Ammochostos
Mr Dawlat Aboona	Baghdad
Mrs Nada Tafankchi	Baghdad
Dr Angel Afolabi	Bahrain
Mr David Axtell	Bahrain – Provincial Representative
Mr Maxwell Heineck	Canterbury Group
Mr Paul L’Huillier	Canterbury Group
Mrs Miriam Burt	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
Mr Innocent Ekpeluchi	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
Mr Edwin Enodiana	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
Mrs Kavita Mathew	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
Mrs Kemi Ogunyoye	Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates
Mr Stuart Hillard	Kyrenia
Mrs Amanda Warrender	Kyrenia
Mrs Deb Graham	Larnaca
Mrs Sue Mantovani	Larnaca
Mrs Edna Gregory	Limassol
Mrs Linda Rowell	Limassol
Mr Frank Creighton	Nicosia
Mrs Margaret Michaelides	Nicosia
Miss Jacquie Hammond	Paphos
Mrs Sarah Sait	Paphos
Mrs Margaret Douglass	Qatar
Mrs Jean Rose	Qatar

PROVINCIAL SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

Mr Bill Grundy	Kyrenia
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STAFF

Mrs Georgia Katsantonis	Bishop’s Secretary
Mrs Anetta Stylianou	Administrative Secretary
Mrs Evangelia Georgakaki	Finance Officer
Dr Helen Perry	Administration Officer
Mr Stanley Hooper	Diocesan Chancellor
Ms Maggie Le Roy	Retreats Facilitator

2018/05

REPORT OF PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Bishop Michael gave a brief account of the make-up of the Province and its four Dioceses: the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf; the Diocese of Egypt, North Africa and the Horn of Africa; the Diocese of Iran; and the Diocese of Jerusalem. The Province receives and is responsible for the distribution of grants from a number of sources. Provincial Synod meets at least twice every five years and its work and business is carried on by its Standing Committee.

The Provincial Synod last met in May 2017 in Amman, Jordan in the Diocese of Jerusalem. Bishop Michael was joined from the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf by Archdeacon Bill Schwartz, Mr Bill Grundy, Mrs Georgia Katsantonis, Mrs Sarah Sait and the Reverend Drew Schmotzer.

In the course of the Provincial Synod, elections to succeed Archbishop Mouneer Hanna Anis as Primate were held, establishing the Most Reverend Suheil Dawani as Archbishop for two-and-a-half years, to be followed by Bishop Michael from November 2019. Bishop Michael paid tribute to Archbishop Mouneer's long and honourable service in his ten years in office.

There was discussion of the role of the Primate of a Province, including the fact that whether the role entailed juridical authority or (as in this Province) not, the Archbishop is *primus inter pares*. There was also agreement to review the structure of the Province.

The Bishop reported on continuing discussion of the development of Provincial Canon Law. A document entitled Principles of Canon Law was commended to all the Dioceses for study. This document was presented by the Bishop of Winchester, who was sent to the Provincial Synod by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Bishop Michael referred to discussion of attempts by other denominations to suppress the independence of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt, and he commended the able leadership of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt. He also referred to a decision to cease participation in the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches.

The Bishop reported on his representing the Province at the Anglican Consultative Council in Lusaka, Zambia in 2016, where Christian learning and intentional discipleship were important areas of discussion. There were also reports on world ecumenical dialogue and the book produced as a result; Bishop Michael reported to the Council on dialogue with the Eastern Orthodox.

Bishop Michael highlighted the appointment of Mr Joel Kelling of the Anglican Alliance as part-time Provincial Administrator, whose focus includes the initiation of a youth and young people's event in the Province. Mrs Georgia Katsantonis was elected Provincial Secretary for a further term and the election of an eight-member Provincial Standing Committee was agreed. There was also discussion on a presentation by Canon Andy Bowerman of the Anglican Alliance, which promotes the same concerns as the theme of this Diocesan Synod, Doing God and Doing Good.

2018/06 **THE JERUSALEM AND EAST MISSION TRUST (JEMT) AND THE JERUSALEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST CHURCH ASSOCIATION (JMECA)**

The Chairman invited Archdeacon John Holdsworth to introduce to Synod the Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust (JEMT) and the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association (JMECA). JEMT manages 18 funds that together comprise JMECA, a UK-registered charity operating across the Province.

The Archdeacon highlighted JMECA's support in funding Ministry training, conferences, student maintenance and travel grants, as well as the great sense of support it provides to the Diocese in general.

2018/07 **THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE**

The Chairman invited the Reverend Canon Ian Calder, Chairman of the Association of Friends of the Diocese, to present his report.

Canon Calder referred to three annual meetings: a three-day retreat/conference at Launde Abbey in April; an Annual General Meeting at All Hallows by the Tower in July; and York Day, held in October—a social occasion centred around a shared Eucharist. He also congratulated the Reverend Bertrand Olivier of All Hallows by the Tower on his appointment as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal.

Canon Calder reported on a meeting of the Venerable Christopher Futcher, Archdeacon of Exeter, with Friends Sally and Charles Milner, and his wife Penny Calder, to discuss closer cooperation to support the Diocese, including a possible meeting of Friends in the South West of the UK. A meeting between Friends and members of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf Foundation at the end of 2017 explored ways in which the two bodies might work more closely to jointly support the Diocese.

Canon Calder also commended *The Olive Branch*, published by the Friends.

2018/08 **REPORT FROM THE MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The Chairman invited Archdeacon Bill Schwartz to report on the Middle East Council of Churches.

Archdeacon Bill began by outlining the history of the Council, which emerged from the Near East Council of Churches, formed by missionary groups in Lebanon and to some extent Egypt. However, these were singularly Protestant groups, where Protestants are less than 3% of the Christians in the Middle East. The Middle East Council of Churches, formed in 1974, included the Eastern and the Oriental Orthodox, which make up 80% of the churches in the Middle East, joined in the early 1990s by the Roman Catholics. (Unusual because the Roman Catholics are not part of the World Council of Churches.)

The Middle East Council of Churches has always treated the Anglican presence in the Middle East as three churches: the Anglican Church in Iran, in Egypt, and in Palestine—a consequence of the family of churches that originally made up the Near East Council of Churches. Anglicans have therefore always been considered part of the Middle East Council of Churches separately and remotely, as part of the Protestant grouping of the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches—the subsidiary body that inherited the role of the Near East Council of Churches. This has meant that the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf has not been fully included.

Over the last five years, there has been increasing discussion with the Middle East Council of Churches to recognise the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East as a Church, rather than approaching the Dioceses as separate churches. Significant progress to this end has now been made.

At the September 2017 General Assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches, attended by Bishop Michael, Bishop Suheil and Archdeacon Bill, it was accepted that the Anglican Church in the Middle East should be treated as a single body, and that Anglicans and Presbyterians do not share a communion or have the same inter-church relationships. This movement to recognise Anglican participation as a fifth family also has implications for the Anglican Church in Egypt, the administration of which (including property), has been claimed to come under that Protestant grouping associated with the Near East Council of Churches, referred to above.

The question of whether the Middle East Council of Churches should represent Christians who live in the Middle East rather than Middle Easterners who are Christian, remains a challenge. However, Archdeacon Bill noted that the Middle East Council of Churches is struggling for an identity, and while the participation of the Anglican Church is part of that struggle, the fact that we are all part of the same struggle was also acknowledged, accepted and in many ways celebrated.

The Chairman closed with reference to the Gulf Church Leaders Fellowship (“the Gulf Churches Fellowship”), established to address issues related to expatriates in the Gulf and which includes Anglicans, Evangelicals and all the major ancient traditions. At a recent meeting in Abu Dhabi, the Gulf Churches Fellowship responded to the “Marrakesh declaration”, in which Muslim leaders outlined the courtesies and welcome that should be extended to Christians in Muslim lands, with a statement in which they suggest the declaration is real and should be made real across the region.

Both documents are available from the Diocesan website. The meeting also included a dinner with UAE Minister of Tolerance Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.

2018/09 **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Bishop Michael delivered his Address, which was circulated to all present and is added as an appendix to these minutes (*Appendix 1*).

2018/10 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SYNOD 2017**

CHAIRMAN: THE VENERABLE BILL SCHWARTZ

The Chairman moved

Motion 1

Synod receives and approves the minutes of the 2017 meeting

The motion was carried unanimously, subject to the amendment that the Reverend Chris Howitz was present at Synod 2017.

2018/11 **MATTERS ARISING**

Nothing to report.

2018/12 **FINANCIAL REPORT – 2017 DIOCESAN ACCOUNTS**

The Chairman invited Canon John Banfield to present the 2017 Accounts.

The Anglican Church (Cyprus) Limited

Canon John Banfield gave a brief account of the Anglican Church (Cyprus) Ltd, which incorporates the Diocese as a legal entity in Cyprus. The directors of the Company are the Bishop and two Archdeacons, and the members of the company are the elected members of Standing Committee. In both capacities (Standing Committee and the Anglican Church (Cyprus) Ltd) these individuals are answerable to this Synod.

Two documents were circulated: an income and expense statement, and the accounts, neither yet fully audited. The final audited accounts will be presented to the Directors of the Company at an AGM in May 2018.

2017 Accounts Summary

Income

There was a significant reduction of funds coming into the Diocese in 2017.

Expenditure

There was no significant difference in 2017 actual and budgeted expenditure associated with the Bishop, Executive Archdeacon, Archdeacon in the Gulf, and Meetings and Travel. The Programmes and Administration lines were below budget.

2017 Accounts

Expenditure

Programmes

Christ Church Aden

At €89k, the cost of Ras Morbat Clinic activities was slightly below budget in 2017.

Ministry Training

This expense of €115K was broadly in line with that budgeted for 2017.

Spirituality Development

Mainly associated with the Barnabas Team, expenditure of €11k was below the budgeted €15k for 2017.

Famagusta Student Chaplaincy

No change on the previous year and as budgeted, at €25k.

Other programmes

A lack of activity under this heading in 2017 resulted in expenditure of just €3k compared to a budgeted figure of €25,000.

Administration

Higher administration costs in 2017 compared to 2016 reflected the temporary parallel hiring of staff. Expenditure on the Director of Finance and Office expenditure remained broadly unchanged. The absence of a Spirituality Adviser, in the event not appointed in 2017, is reflected in a reduced figure.

Overall, expenditure in 2017 was slightly below both budget and that of 2016.

Income

Anglican Centre Doha

Contributions of €223k were below those of 2016 but broadly in line with a budgeted figure of €225k for 2017.

JEMT UK

JEMT UK provides annual support to the Dioceses of the Province. In 2017 the Diocese received €41k, slightly less than budgeted.

Good Friday Offering

Slightly less than the €70k budgeted was received, partly the result exchange-rate shifts.

Christ Church Aden

The income towards this project was slightly higher than budgeted.

Larnaca/JEMT (Cyprus)

St Helena's parish contributes €20k to the Diocese towards the services of Archdeacon John Holdsworth as parish priest. A contribution of €9k from JEMT (Cyprus) towards the rent of the Archdeacon's house has ceased.

The Foundation of Cyprus and the Gulf

The first of three annual contributions of £25,000 (€33k in 2017) towards Ministry Training had been received.

Other income

Other contributions totalling €40k were above a budgeted figure of €35k.

Parish contributions

A lower than expected figure was due to two factors: contributions of €11k from Doha remained in a blocked PayPal account; and €285k had not yet been received from Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates, pending authorities' approval of its release.

Cash balance

The total cash balance as of 31st December 2017 was €149k, of which €75,000 was a loan from Kuwait.

The Reverend Chris Howitz pointed to an error in some figures already being described as in the 1000s of euros.

The Chairman moved

Motion 2

Synod receives and approves the Diocesan financial statements for 2017

The motion was carried unanimously.

2018/13

REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL/STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Chairman invited Archdeacon John Holdsworth to present the Report of the Bishop's Council/Standing and Finance Committee.

Archdeacon John referred to key issues not covered by the more in-depth reports to be discussed in the course of Synod. One was Synod itself and suggested improvements, which resulted this year in a special emphasis on the resourcing function of Synod. This included the introduction of 1) a Synod bookstall, with unsold books to form libraries in Nicosia, Doha, and one or two in the UAE, and 2) two workshop sessions instead of one, with guest speakers (Imam Shakir and Roger Jones) and a wider variety of subjects covered. Archdeacon John also reiterated the importance of strategic planning, referring for example to personnel changes in light of the imminent departure of Mrs Anetta Stylianou.

Bishop Michael outlined his thoughts on a proposed change to the organisation of the Diocese, to rejig some of the discharging of the key functions of the running of the Diocese. The background to this thinking was a desire to ensure that the structure of the Diocese was as robust as possible into the future, given that the age of retirement is 70 (five years' time for Bishop Michael, four years for Archdeacon Bill and one year for Archdeacon John), and that Bishop Michael will be made Primate in 2019. Under the proposal, there would continue to be two Archdeacons—one in Cyprus and one in the Gulf—but no longer an Executive Archdeacon. The Bishop commended Archdeacon John's work in this role, driving through to completion safeguarding policy and clergy disciplinary and competency procedures, as well as work in the field of vocations, ministry and Christian learning.

It was envisaged that the person who followed Archdeacon John would continue to be the parish priest of Larnaca, and the territorial Archdeacon in Cyprus. There would also be appointed a Diocesan Secretary, as had previously been the case, responsible for the running, management and oversight of the office and its staff, and supporting and encouraging them. The Diocesan Secretary would carry the immediate, paid, responsibility for the oversight and discharge of finance; almost certainly for communications, legal matters, human resources; and, certainly, for supporting Synod and Standing Committee, and for serving as the principal person relating to JEMT Cyprus. It is also likely that that person would hold ministry training, which doesn't preclude other help in that area. The Diocesan Secretary would also be responsible for Diocesan projects, especially Aden and, increasingly, Baghdad. In terms of being a line manager and an encourager, the Diocesan Secretary would be over the Administration and Finance Officers and the part-time secretary of JEMT Cyprus and would oversee any external work by any auditor or legal adviser. The incoming Archdeacon of Cyprus would be likely to share in the work of the Diocesan Secretary. The services of honorary and unpaid advisers would also be maintained, currently John Banfield (finance) and Stanley Hooper (legal), as well as the services of John Holdsworth in terms of honorary, unpaid adviser for ministry and ministry development. But it would be the new Archdeacon in Cyprus who would be the on-the-spot, paid, director of ministry.

The Bishop invited Synod members to reflect and comment on these thoughts, which had also been considered by two successive meetings of Bishop's Council and Standing Committee.

Mrs Margaret Douglass asked whether a Diocesan Secretary should not be elected from Synod, highlighting reference to such a post in the Constitution Standing Orders. The Chairman clarified that the role outlined in the Constitution was a secretary to the Synod. Bishop Michael clarified that the role he had outlined was equivalent to a chief operating officer.

Dr Angel Afolabi asked whether, for clarity's sake, the title should be changed. Bishop Michael observed that there is currently no Diocesan Secretary as outlined in the Constitution, whereas the person of Diocesan Secretary envisaged for the future was well-established in many Anglican Dioceses around the world. Archdeacon John Holdsworth suggested this issue was an example of why it was important to move to a proposed new Constitution. He further clarified that the new Constitution makes no reference to a Diocesan Secretary—a post which under the current Constitution is not in fact elected.

It was also asked how the position might be financed, given the financial constraints currently facing the Diocese. Archdeacon Bill Schwartz responded that the current situation was purely the result of delays in the transfer of funds from Dubai chaplaincy, as a result of government-imposed changes to the process, and he commended the Reverend Harrison Chinnakumar's efforts to advance the process.

It was asked if the Diocesan Secretary post would be limited to clerics. Bishop Michael responded that it might be a cleric but must be somebody able to discharge the duties outlined. Overall, however, the position had to be affordable.

The Chairman moved

Motion 3

Synod receives and approves the Report from the Bishop's Council/Standing Committee

The motion was carried unanimously.

2018/14 **CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

The Chairman outlined the process of Constitutional reform to date, highlighting the work of Diocesan Chancellor Stanley Hooper over a period of four years of consultation within the Diocese, culminating in the appointment by Standing Committee of a Select Committee, tasked with reviewing key issues and presenting the proposed revised Constitution to Synod. Members were directed to Section 8 ('Amendments to the Constitution') of the current Constitution, detailing the process by which amendments to the Diocesan Constitution are approved by Synod, including votes by the Houses of Clergy and of Laity over two successive Synods. The Chairman clarified that the process detailed in Section 8 did not apply to Standing Orders, which could be amended by a simple vote of the Synod.

The Chairman invited Archdeacon John Holdsworth, convenor of the Select Committee on Constitutional reform, to present the Committee's work.

Archdeacon John stated that the Select Committee had considered feedback on the draft Constitution generated from its having been sent to parishes for comment. He also outlined a number of additional adjustments to the proposed Constitution that were circulated as a separate document, as they had been agreed by the Select Committee subsequent to the proposed Constitution having been sent to Synod members.

Archdeacon John noted that the Diocesan Constitution must be consistent with, and was subsidiary to, that of the Province, just as Parish Constitutions must be consistent with and were subsidiary to that of the Diocese.

Archdeacon John highlighted proposed changes regarding membership of the House of Clergy. Military chaplains, with whom close Diocesan links will be maintained, would be non-voting rather than voting members, in keeping with the fact that their work does not entail responsibility for

raising funds towards or implementing Synod strategy. He also referred to changes enabling the Bishop to nominate up to two additional priests, making possible the appointment of clergy operating under permission rather than licence of the Bishop.

Archdeacon John highlighted proposed changes regarding the House of Laity. The Select Committee were keen to stress that “representatives” must ensure that every part of the Diocese finds a place and a voice at Synod. They did not come with a mandate to vote in particular ways: they were representatives, who could not vote in a disinterested way and who must explain to parishes what Synod had decided.

It was noted that the appointment of clergy was a matter for the Bishop. However, consistency, transparency and inclusiveness required that published procedures be followed before the name of an appointee was submitted to him for approval.

Archdeacon John referred to queries regarding elected members of Standing Committee, two of whom are drawn from each of the Houses, of Clergy and of Laity. While it has been customary to also maintain even representation by Archdeaconry (of Cyprus and of the Gulf), it was felt that this should not be written into the Constitution—thereby prioritising an effort to secure the most suitable individuals possible.

The proposed Constitution addresses issues related to parochial administration. Members of a church electoral roll should be habitual worshippers (i.e. place of residence deemed less relevant in Diocesan context), on the understanding that “habitual” would be understood by church Councils according to circumstance and therefore need not (and should not) be specified, and the possibility remained of appeal to the Archdeacon. Parish agendas should be mission-oriented. Church Councils should appoint one of their member as Secretary.

Archdeacon John also emphasised the need for consistency across parishes with regard to churchwardens—historically the oldest lay ministries of the Church and important both in terms of their wide range of duties and as Bishop’s officers, directly answerable to the Bishop. Individuals who are not confirmed Anglicans may, with the Bishop’s permission, serve as churchwardens.

Mrs Margaret Douglass raised a point of order, enquiring whether the establishment of a Select Committee was within the remit of the Standing and Finance Committee, rather than that of the Synod. Archdeacon John responded that Standing Committee in effect served as Synod for the period between annual Synod meetings and that, following consultation with parishes on the subject of Constitutional reform, Standing Committee had decided a Select Committee was the most effective means of carrying this process forward.

Archdeacon John clarified that members of Synod held their position from the date of their selection until the day before the following year’s Synod. He also drew attention to a circulated document identifying errors in notation to be corrected.

Archdeacon John moved on to highlight amendments to Standing Orders, also circulated.

Standing Order 6a specifies that elected lay members of the Provincial Synod who are not representatives of a chaplaincy/parish shall attend the Diocesan Synod as members of the House of Laity but shall vote only on matters relating to the Provincial Synod. A request to call a meeting of Synod must be signed by 20 members (rather than eight)—approximately one-third of the body. Amendments to motions must be seconded. A majority of those “present and voting” refers to a majority of those voting for, against or abstaining (i.e. not including anyone present who does not cast a vote for one of those three options).

The Chairman proposed that the changes to Standing Orders be accepted, seconded by the Reverend Wendy Hough.

The Reverend Drew Schmotzer noted that other changes to the document had not been highlighted.

The Chairman responded that the adjustments brought to the attention of Synod were those identified by the Select Committee subsequent to the proposed Constitution having been sent to members, in time for their consideration before Synod.

Archdeacon John Holdsworth clarified that three documents had been made available to members: a proposed Constitution; secondary, minor amendments to which he had been referring in the course of the session; and his own presentation of what the Select Committee believed likely to be key discussion points in that proposed Constitution.

The Chairman emphasised that there was no attempt to rush the process, while noting that the document had been made available for comment for some time.

Mr David Axtell noted the importance of adopting a consultative approach to complex work and called for a period of further reflection.

The Chairman moved

Motion 4

Synod receives and accepts the revised Standing Orders

The motion was carried, with:

Nay: 11

Abstentions: 2

Archdeacon John moved the adjournment of the debate to a later date, seconded by Dean Jeremy Crocker.

The motion was carried, with:

Nay: 3

The proposed and existing Constitution and Standing Orders were to be recirculated for discussion in parish and chaplaincy Councils, along with a guide to changes, drawn up by Archdeacon John Holdsworth. Responses would be requested by a particular date, after which the Select Committee shall compile a document for debate and decision at Synod 2019. Both Archdeacons would be available to Councils to discuss issues of concern.

The Reverend Chris Howitz proposed continuing with discussion of Constitutional reform. However, the approach outlined (above) was endorsed by the Bishop as one best able to produce the greatest possible degree of consensus, and invited members of Synod to exercise their role as principal expositors of the process and the material to be generated.

It was asked whether comments received might also be circulated. Archdeacon John replied that such an approach would undermine the effort to advance the process. Suggestions had already been assimilated; the aim going forward was to provide the fullest possible information in order to resource Synod 2019 participants to the greatest extent possible.

Mrs Margaret Douglass asked if the process of Constitutional reform could be regularised under Article 5b (iv) and the process brought back to Synod 2019. Bishop Michael clarified that Standing Committee had determined the process underway to be the best way forward, and that Standing Committee could not be precluded from forming groups to report back to it. The Reverend Andrew

Burt observed that his Council had taken up the opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed Constitution, in the expectation that its own parish Constitution would need to be revised—a process that would yet again be put on hold and for which he felt disappointment.

2018/15 **THE SAFEGUARDING GROUP**

CHAIRMAN: THE VERY REVEREND CHRIS BUTT

The Chairman thanked Safeguarding Group Chairman the Reverend Christine Goldsmith.

The Reverend Christine Goldsmith requested parish Councils and parish priests/chaplains to support Safeguarding Officers in implementing the policies outlined, enabling Safeguarding Officers in turn to support and protect.

The Chairman moved

Motion 5

Synod receives and approves the Report of the Safeguarding Group

The motion was carried unanimously.

2018/16 **DIOCESAN VIDEO**

Archdeacon John Holdsworth introduced the Diocesan Video, which was warmly received. The Chairman thanked Archdeacon John, Mr David Hammond-Williams and all those who took part, for their creative, activist and artistic presentation of the Diocese. The Diocesan video had been copied onto USB sticks and circulated to all chaplaincies

Yemen update

Archdeacon Bill Schwartz provided additional insight into the situation in Yemen, where the medical system is broadly non-functioning, with the exception of Médecins Sans Frontières, the staff of which now live onshore in Aden, albeit under heavy armed guard for fear of kidnap, whereas previously the situation was deemed too unsafe for staff to live on the ground beyond working hours. The Ras Morbat eye clinic, based in the Christ Church compound, sees 40-60 patients a day, according to site supervisor Mr Mansour Yousuf Khan. The clinic is staffed by Muslims serving their compatriots, refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia, as well as Christians.

Archdeacon Bill highlighted the encouragement to be drawn from the church's warm relationship with the people of Aden. Neighbours showed great courage in protecting the church and clinic, driving away extremist groups who had already destroyed two of three Catholic churches in Aden. One day a week is given over to the treatment of residents of a Somali refugee camp about four hours' drive away, who are brought by bus. Increasing number of IDPs (internally displaced people) finding their way to Aden—the only city not under bombardment—and many come to the clinic as they are not registered for treatment at local hospitals. A difficulty is that many are homeless, however the clinic does not have the resources to provide both shelter and health care. Annual visits to the small town of Mocha, suspended due to fighting, are soon to resume, the local hospital having gathered a list of some 100 eye patients in need of specialist care.

Archdeacon Bill referred to an editorial in which a recent patient commended the work of the clinic and asked why the mosques did not organise similar care—a positive development for its appreciation of the church's work but less so should any take such observations to be a challenge. He also reported on the receipt of a grant from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Communion Fund for maintenance of the church building. However, the continued risk of

kidnapping means it is unlikely to be safe to appoint a priest in the foreseeable future. Archdeacon Bill thanked all those who make contributions, which are much needed and much appreciated in the running of the clinic.

2018/17 **ANGLICAN ALLIANCE REPORT**

Canon Andy Bowerman described the purpose of the Anglican Alliance as being to bring together the agencies and churches of the Anglican communion, to respond to issues of poverty and injustice, centred on key themes of climate change, human trafficking, economic empowerment and inter-religious conflict. The Alliance has a small staff of 11, including Mr Joel Kelling who has been appointed facilitator in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, to be based in Amman, Jordan. Canon Bowerman quoted the Archbishop of Canterbury as saying the Anglican Alliance are the glue and the oil of the communion, trying to bring people together in ways they might not have thought of, and of reminding people of the bigger issues on which they all should be working together. Although it is not a funding agency, the Alliance can direct organisations to resources.

2018/18 **CANTERBURY GROUP REPORT**

CHAIRMAN: MRS ANGELA MURRAY

Mr Chuck Reischman presented a verbal report on the life of the Canterbury Group. Mr Reischman thanked all those who prayed for his wife Gina's speedy recovery. Around 30 nationalities in five cities worship with the Canterbury Group. There has been more change over the past five months than the past fifty years—political, cultural and religious. The Canterbury Group aims for all its parishes to be “great commandment and great commission”, with deeper roots supporting wider branches. The Group organises events such as Shrove Tuesday pancake dinners as a way of connecting with individuals and families, as well as Bible study groups and ministries to labourers. The number of children participating has grown significantly.

2018/19 **COMPANION DIOCESE REPORT**

Report from the Diocese of Thika

Bishop Julius Wanyoike presented a profile of his Diocese of 76 parishes and nine archdeaconries, detailing a range of clergy- and lay-related activities, including meetings with business leaders, the hosting of nine primates and their wives, the confirmation of over 2,000 individuals, and the establishment of two new churches and four new parishes. Amidst solid growth in the number and size of congregations, challenges include balancing the ministry needs of ageing, rural and youthful, urban congregations, in a country with an average age of 20. The challenge is how to accommodate, in a traditional Anglican liturgical context, young adults in different social and cultural settings: equipping church leaders and clergy to understand and provide the requisite services to a dynamic demography; re-engineering ministry without losing Anglican identity and flavour; and raising sufficient resources to meet the demands of ministry. Bishop Julius welcomed Bishop Michael's acceptance of an invitation to visit Thika in the 20th year of the founding of the Diocese of Thika, and extended an invitation to all who would like to join him.

Report from the Diocese of Exeter

Archdeacon Christopher Fatcher of the Diocese of Exeter brought greetings from Bishop Robert Atwell and apologies from Dame Sarah Mullally, currently Bishop of Crediton and newly appointed Bishop of London. The Archdeacon outlined four key developments in the Diocese of Exeter: a rural-church project enabling mission across Devon; a resource church in Plymouth, staffed and

funded by Holy Trinity Brompton, that has grown from 60 to 400 in a period of 18 months; the appointment of clergy in new housing areas; and a positive focus on vocations and lay training in light of the need to reduce stipendiary clergy by 2024.

Archdeacon Fatcher highlighted the visit of Bishop Michael and Archdeacon Bill to the Diocese of Exeter for the clergy conference held in September, and October when Archdeacon Bill returned to preach at the annual licensing of Readers. He invited anyone visiting England to spend time in the Diocese, and he thanked everyone for their work in making Palm Crosses and for the link they established between the Dioceses. He also referred to growing connections through placements—the Reverend Harry Ching’s in Exmouth, the Reverend Anne Fatcher’s in Bahrain and a vicar on sabbatical to visit Thika Diocese. A meeting of the three linked Dioceses is planned, to be held in Exeter on the theme of mission, discipleship and ministry. The importance of international companion links were also to be on the agenda of the General Synod of the Church of England, as a central part of mission and discipleship.

Ms Sue Parks outlined plans to raise the profile of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf within the Exeter Diocese, which has a large number of residents who travel, often via the Gulf, raising the opportunity to encourage travellers to stop over, to be there on a Friday to meet and worship in the local chaplaincy, arranged through a contact person in Exeter liaising with a contact person in a given chaplaincy. In the case of Cyprus, the approach could be to make local churches known to holidaymakers from the Exeter Diocese.

Canon Andy Bowerman invited Bishop Michael to comment on the importance to him of companion dioceses, with a view to its being shared at the General Synod of the Church of England. Bishop Michael emphasised the strengths of a partnership of three. Being in a relationship with a Diocese in Africa illuminated the perspective of the relationship between the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf and one in the Church of England. A challenge is to make clear that although some members of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf are British, it is quite unlike a Diocese in Britain; another is to ensure the particularity of the Diocese is understood against the background of casual assumptions about the Middle East, in terms of both its politics and the Christians within it.

2018/19 **COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Archdeacon John Holdsworth highlighted the recent launch of the new website and the extensive work behind it, led by Archdeacon Bill Schwartz and the Reverend Jon Lavelle, in cooperation with Saracen, and proposed a vote of thanks to Saracen for its pro bono contribution. The process of transferring content to the new site was ongoing and parishes were invited to send photos and/or text relating to recent and upcoming events. Archdeacon John also referred to the Diocesan Facebook page as an important access point to the Diocesan website. Other Diocesan communications output included scene@synod, scene@cypgulf and the Diocesan video.

Parish communications officers in Cyprus continue to meet annually. Synod participants with communications skills were invited to join the forthcoming Communications Team meeting.

Archdeacon Bill provided an update on Diocesan website usage, running at 200 hits a day. He thanked those who had sent photos and encouraged those who had not to do so.

The Reverend Christine Goldsmith requested that priority be given to the uploading of resources, including the Diocesan liturgy for Holy Week and Easter. Archdeacon John confirmed that it would.

2018/20 **BARNABAS TEAM REPORT**

Mr Adrian and Mrs Stella Walter, caretakers of the Katafiyio Retreats house, introduced a widely appreciated video about the facility.

Retreats Facilitator Ms Maggie Le Roy thanked Mr and Mrs Walter for their generous and diligent work, noting that their posts were unpaid. She invited anyone interested in taking up the role of caretaker from 2019 to contact her. A deficit of 1,500 euros for 2017—covered by the Barnabas Team budget—was due to lower bookings during Miss Le Roy’s sabbatical, when spiritual direction was not available to those seeking individually guided retreats. Miss Le Roy invited parish priests to inform people of Katafiyio, a valuable Diocesan resource, and referred to an article in the Church Times about the retreat.

Miss Le Roy thanked Bishop Michael and the Diocese for enabling her to take a sabbatical, spent at Wydale Hall, retreat of the Diocese of York. The experience emphasised how well-resourced the UK church is and the particular importance, therefore, of the Retreats ministry and spiritual direction in the less resourced Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. Miss Le Roy offered examples of her work around the Diocese, describing a Retreats ministry that began by doing God and led to doing good.

The Reverend Gill Nisbet described the considerable growth in the Diocesan ministry of spiritual direction, a focus area since the formation of the Barnabas Team in 2011. She also invited people to find out more about the contribution spiritual direction might make to themselves as individuals.

Mrs Tricia Butt presented an overview of the Barnabas Team, describing it as a network to encourage and support spiritual development and rich discipleship, walking alongside others to our spiritual home. She welcomed new members the Reverend Harrison Chinnakumar and Miss Jill Duncan, and the appointment of the Reverend Canon Dr Andrew Mayes to the parish church of St Barnabas Limassol and Diocesan Spirituality Adviser, and she welcomed the work of Canon John Banfield and Mr Sarel du Plessis in collating the work of last year’s discussion groups for the Intentional Discipleship Report.

Miss Jill Duncan, member of the Barnabas Team and a youth worker, based in Abu Dhabi, emphasised the importance of investing in youth spirituality and discipleship, referring to research into the (young) age at which mindsets become established.

2018/21 **2018/2019 FINANCES**

CHAIRMAN: ARCHDEACON JOHN HOLDSWORTH

Canon John Banfield clarified that motions to be voted on concerned the budget for programmes Synod requested the Diocesan central administration to implement. Figures for programmes included programme budgets and funding (income) from outside the Diocese, with the balance to be paid by parishes in proportion to gross income.

Central Organisation

The central organisation of the Diocese supports the person and the office of the Bishop; manages the affairs of the Diocese, Diocesan Synod, Bishop’s Council/Standing Committee, and programmes approved by Synod; and supports Provincial Synod and Provincial Standing Committee.

Canon John referred to tentative proposals under consideration by Bishop’s Council/Standing Committee and not incorporated in circulated documents, regarding the possible appointment of a Diocesan Secretary in 2019.

Diocesan expenses for 2018/2019—the three officers of the Diocese, meetings and travel (including Synod and Standing Committee)—are expected to continue at around 2016 levels.

Programmes

Christ Church Aden

Provision is made for a priest to be appointed in 2019.

Ministry Training

Programme budgeted at similar levels going forward.

St George's Baghdad

Funds from FRRME cover running costs including the kindergarten, clinic and food-relief programme. However, FRRME in the US indicated in February 2018 that its funding level would fall somewhat—possibly a sign of more significant decreases to come, and hence additional demand on Diocesan resources. Bishop Michael, Archdeacon Bill Schwartz and Canon John Banfield meet FRRME twice a year in London, next scheduled for April 2018.

Barnabas Team

A modest amount of money is available to facilitate the Team's work.

Student Chaplaincy, Famagusta

Partially funded by external sources, including the Australian Board of Mission.

Other Programmes

Other programmes include Communications and Safeguarding.

Budget for 2018 and 2019

Expenses

Central Organisation

Budgeted expenditure rises to €230k in 2018 from €200k in 2017, falling back in 2019 after a period of parallel staffing. A total of €10k is budgeted for the new post of part-time Spirituality Adviser.

Aden

An increase of €50k in 2019, for the appointment of a new priest.

Ministry Training

A modest increase to €110k in 2018 and 2019 from €100k in 2017, following a dip in 2016.

Student Chaplaincy

Budget remains constant at €25k for 2016-2019.

Spirituality Adviser

Budget increases to €10k for 2018 and 2019.

Other Programmes

Budgeted expenditure of €12k in 2018 and 2019, compared to €24k in 2016 and €3k in 2017.

Income

Parish Contributions

Parish contributions budgeted at €500k in 2018 and €510k in 2019—around 10 percent of parish incomes. The transfer of €285k pending approval of DSNE authorities would take 2017 income to €458k. Income from JEMT UK, TEC Good Friday Offering, Larnaca chaplaincy and funds to support Christ Church Aden remain broadly constant, totalling €230k in 2018 and 2019 compared to €234k in 2016 and €245k in 2017.

Anglican Centre Doha

Contributions increase slightly from €223k in 2017 to €225k in 2018 and €230k in 2019. The Reverend Ian Nicholson, General Manager, highlighted increasing pressure on finances in the light of economic changes in the Gulf and the blockade of Qatar, which have restricted congregations' ability to give and raised the cost of living while the Centre has endeavoured to maintain user charges at the same rate since 2013. With loan instalments expected to climb in the near future, a concerted effort has been made to ensure sufficient savings to meet commitments.

Bishop Michael announced his decision, as discussed at two meetings of Bishop's Council/Standing Committee, to stand down the informal Qatar Anglican Centre Advisory Group and to convene a Board of Reference in its stead. The Board would have three ex-officio members—the parish priest of Epiphany, the Archdeacon of the Gulf and the Bishop, as well as possibly four others with relevant expertise—two from the wider life of the state of Qatar and two from the wider church life of the Gulf Archdeaconry, particularly individuals who would bring expertise in the running of other compounds in the Gulf. The Board of Reference would consult regularly on matters relevant to the purpose and operation of the Qatar Anglican Centre and to assist and advise the Bishop in its oversight. The Board would be expected to provide an annual report to Diocesan Synod, possibly combined with the General Manager's report, and progress reports to Bishop's Council and Standing Committee, as needed. The General Manager of the Qatar Anglican Centre would be present at any virtual or actual meetings of the Board of Reference.

Mrs Margaret Douglass queried why reserves held by the Qatar Anglican Centre were not used to pay off outstanding loans.

The Reverend Ian Nicholson clarified that 1.2 million rials had been saved over the past two years in anticipation of a significant increase in loan repayments. Should the Centre be able to extend its repayment schedule beyond end-2019, this would provide a small working reserve and facility to undertake capital works required.

Mrs Douglass asked how the new structure proposed by the Bishop would compare to that of a trust.

The Bishop replied that JEMT is a UK-registered charity, the Trustees of which must follow charity law. JEMT Cyprus Trustees are subject to JEMT in London. St Christopher's Cathedral Bahrain resides with JEMT and could therefore be considered wider church property in the Gulf, although it is not Diocesan property. Members of the proposed Board of Reference would be equivalent to Trustees, albeit in the absence of an actual Trust. The proposal attempts to honour the one-off situation within the state of Qatar in terms of, on the one hand, what the Father Emir had intended and our understanding of instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, on the other, the fact that Synod, representing the wider Diocese, should have an overview of that process.

Mrs Douglass asked whether Synod would remain the operating body for the Anglican Centre until the Board of Reference was established.

Bishop Michael confirmed that was the case, with Synod represented by the Standing and Finance Committees between Synod meetings.

The Reverend Jebaraj Devasagayam enquired as to whether reports were received on any church properties in the Gulf other than Qatar.

The Chairman replied that reports were issued on the Qatar Anglican Centre and JEMT Cyprus alone, as these concerned Diocesan rather than parish properties.

The Chairman moved

Motion 6

Synod accepts the Report on Anglican Church Property in the Gulf

The motion was carried, with:

Nay: 1

The Chairman moved

Motion 7

Synod receives and approves the proposed Diocesan budget for 2018/19

The motion was carried, with:

Nay: 3

Mrs Margaret Douglass asked whether the Archdeacon in the Gulf's travel budget should be revised to reflect the additional costs resulting from the ongoing blockade of Qatar. Canon John Banfield agreed that the Archdeacon's travel was more costly than previously and that it was therefore possible that the budgeted amount would require adjustment.

The Chairman moved

Motion 8

Synod authorises Standing Committee to sign loan agreements up to €200,000 during 2018 if required

The motion was carried unanimously.

Canon John Banfield clarified that the revision of the motion to raise the amount under consideration to €200,000 from €50,000 was due to the delayed transfer of funds due in 2017, amounting to €296,000. The Trustees of the Foundation had offered a working-capital facility. He also asked any parishes that could to bring forward their payments for 2018.

Mr James Brennan, Chairman of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf Foundation, announced that the Foundation was willing to lend the Diocese up to £150,000 to be drawn down in £50,000 tranches as needed.

The Cyprus Community of Treasurers and parishes in the Gulf also expressed an ability to help, pending Councils' approval.

The Reverend Drew Schmotzer apologised for the difficulties the delayed DSNE contribution had caused the Diocese and thanked all those endeavouring to resolve and mitigate the situation.

The Chairman moved

Motion 9

Synod authorises Standing Committee to approve capital expenditure up to €5,000 during 2018 if required

The motion was carried unanimously.

2018/22 **REPORT OF THE JEMT (CYPRUS) TRUSTEES**

CHAIRMAN: ARCHDEACON JOHN HOLDSWORTH

The Chairman highlighted the successful conclusion of the quinquennial review and the careful custodianship of church property it revealed, as well as the considerable work undertaken at St George's Troodos. Efforts to resolve property issues in northern Cyprus were ongoing, led by JEMT UK's legal adviser, who was endeavouring to recover rights over sites in Kyrenia and Famagusta. Work to establish in northern Cyprus a body similar to JEMT Cyprus was also underway.

The Chairman moved

Motion 10

Synod receives and approves the Report from the Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust (Cyprus)

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved

Motion 11

Synod confirms the appointment of Mr Stuart Hillard as Trustee of the Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust (Cyprus)

The motion was carried, with:

Abstentions: 1

2018/23 **REPORT OF THE DIOCESE OF CYPRUS AND THE GULF FOUNDATION**

CHAIRMAN: ARCHDEACON JOHN HOLDSWORTH

The Chairman invited Mr James Brennan to present the report of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf Foundation. Mr Brennan introduced fellow Foundation Trustee Mrs Sibella Laing, Foundation Treasurer Mr Charles Milner and Mrs Susan Cooper.

The Foundation is a UK registered charity, which meets twice a year at All Hallows by the Tower to coincide with visits to the UK by Bishop Michael which allows the Trustees to be brought up to date with events in the Diocese. He expressed his gratitude to Father Bertrand of All Hallows for his kind hospitality to the Foundation.

The Foundation was established over 20 years ago by a Trust Deed with the principle object of using funds raised in support of, and for the benefit of, the work of the Diocese and in support of the Bishop. He noted that the Foundation's proposed loan to the Diocese marked the first time this aspect of its function had been activated.

The Foundation has limited funds to help the Diocese, with a modest portfolio of investments, and is dependent on contributions from well-wishers. Donations are received from many sources, for

general or specific purposes, for example to support Christians in Iraq through St George's Baghdad, or to support the work of Christ Church and the Ras Morbat Clinic in Aden. Donations are held by the Foundation until such time as a request for their transfer is received from the Diocese. During 2017 the Foundation was able to provide financial support towards the development of the school at St George's. The Foundation would continue to provide £25,000 per year in support of the Diocesan ordinand training programme over 2018-2020. The Foundation also provides administrative support to churches in the Diocese to claim Gift Aid on collections and donations.

Finally, Mr Brennan urged Synod members to keep the Foundation in mind for gifts, legacies or fund-raising initiatives, especially where the involvement of the Foundation would be helpful, such as in getting funds to their intended purpose and the making of Gift Aid claims.

Synod joined the Very Reverend Chris Butt in expressing its thanks to Finance Director Canon John Banfield for his extensive work, and his unfailing ability to present financial resources as resources for ministry and development.

2018/24 **INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP UPDATE**

CHAIRMAN: THE VERY REVEREND JEREMY CROCKER

Mr Sarel du Plessis outlined the Barnabas Team definition of intentional discipleship as church membership taken seriously and decisively; as being about those who are growing, maturing and contributing to the fullness of life that God intended; and as taking many shapes and sizes.

A strong theme identified by the Barnabas Team in feedback from the 2017 discussion groups was the need to teach and nurture pastoral care in the community and the offering of hospitality. The theme of challenging injustice was less prevalent. Indeed, the feedback conveyed an implicit sense of intentional discipleship as an individual pursuit: little was said of worship and the Church as community, of giving to God and to each other.

He also outlined the Barnabas Team's concept of a spiritual audit, describing it as a platform to work from—as more than a statement of condition and rather an indication of spiritual potential, which, as a community, is in relation to the nature and character of God, to how intimate we wish to be with Him and how much we wish to serve Him.

2018/25 **DISCUSSION GROUP FEEDBACK**

Representatives summarised the discussions of each group, which touched on themes including:

- corruption, human trafficking;
- service to humanity as service to the Creator;
- doing good does not equal doing God—rather, doing God is all-encompassing and includes doing good;
- the importance of small acts, of showing respect, of helping where one sees need, and of joy, of not living by guilt;
- the importance of simply being there for those in need;
- identifying means of facilitating confident discussion with non-Christian specialists in data-driven fields;
- how to ensure Church communities are informed about the developments that matter to them;
- gender labels for God;
- differing conceptions of equal rights (and their absence) across cultures;

- the danger of making commitments on behalf of God that one is not empowered to make.

Suggestions for action included to:

- call upon the Anglican leadership to speak out publicly against injustice;
 - formally align the Diocese with causes identified by the Anglican Alliance;
 - appoint parish (and Diocesan) Social Responsibility Groups;
 - draw on parish expertise such as Dubai’s work with migrant workers, Abu Dhabi’s youth work, the operation of thrift shops;
 - engage in random acts of kindness;
 - initiate tree-planting projects, bringing partner Dioceses together;
 - introduce weekly Diocesan-wide themes;
 - commit to recycling;
 - introduce Synod sessions on themes people feel passionate about;
 - draw up a Diocesan mission statement open to local adaptation;
 - set up a company offering services, channelling money back into the church (Cypgulf Funeral Directors, for example);
 - read, learn, enquire;
 - seek advice and expertise from good works outside the Church;
 - empower and enable others;
 - improve upon and follow through on our welcome;
 - take care to be inclusive, inviting those whose work and family lives prevent their volunteering to pray for those who can;
 - introduce more flexible, themed liturgies;
 - develop a feeling of being without, for example, limiting water intake;
 - listen to those in need and then act;
 - check one’s intentions and motives, be open about them and not ashamed;
 - not dip in and out of but rather build relationships;
 - balance congregational needs with those outside;
 - be realistic about what can be achieved—one individual or family at a time—but be brave;
 - save paper, including at Synod;
 - help people to help themselves;
 - focus on individual rather than Church responsibility to “do”;
 - accept fallibility and one’s inability to make a difference;
 - consider the words, “Our worship has ended, our service now begins”;
 - approach the complexity of the world with humility, avoiding mechanical definition of problems and solutions, but drawing on local action to establish the credibility required to demand action at a broader level;
 - go in passion to love and serve the Lord, to overcome fear in challenging injustice;
 - be kind to yourselves
- ...and use discussion-group time to undertake a simultaneous beach clean.

2018/26 **MINISTRY REPORT**

Archdeacon John Holdsworth outlined the considerable progress made in the past four years, and the impact of Ministry training on the sense of Diocese. A total of 23 students were registered with Queen’s College, with a further 20 following the Exploring Faith course informally.

He also referred to the 2017 Theological Educators Group meeting, which focused on lay ministry and the similar processes of discernment, selection and training involved in ordained and lay ministry. Three aspects of training were identified: following a course, practical training and formation. A new selection procedure was proposed for Readers as well as ordained Ministers,

including the closer involvement of parishes, which would contribute €500 for each candidate recommended, half of which would go towards the cost of residential training and half towards a Diocesan library fund. The next step was to develop a creative strategy for the deployment of ministers. It was therefore expected that a meeting of the Bishop's Advisory Group on Ministry would be convened, as well as a Selection Conference and a residential training for facilitators.

Archdeacon John highlighted the fact that three Diocesan candidates had now completed their BTh in Ministry and Discipleship—Mrs Sue Smith, the Reverend Christine Goldsmith and the Reverend Geoff Graham—with a ceremony due to be held in Cyprus later in the year.

Details of the 2018 Clergy and Spouses Conference had yet to be finalised, pending the Diocese of Jerusalem's identifying a specific location in the proposed area of the Dead Sea in Jordan and the securing of funding for the Diocese of Egypt to attend. In the meantime, a group consisting of representatives from the Dioceses of Cyprus and the Gulf, Jerusalem and Egypt, of which Archdeacon John and the Reverend Jon Lavelle were members, had drawn up a detailed programme on the theme of "A home for the homeless".

The Chairman moved

Motion 11

Synod receives and approves the Report from the Director of Ministry

- a. Competency Procedure***
- b. Disciplinary Procedure***
- c. Clergy and Spouses Conference 2018***

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs Margaret Douglass offered a two-fold apology to the Reverend Ian Nicholson—first, for not having commended his highly effective management of the Qatar Anglican Centre, successfully saving €175,000 in his first full year as Manager; second, for having wrongly believed there to have been sufficient reserves to support the more speedy repayment of loans to the Centre.

2018/27 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Synod would be held at the Lordos Beach Hotel from Monday 4th to Friday 8th February 2019. Bishop Michael stressed that participants should endeavour to arrive in good time for the opening session.

2018/28 **CLOSING REMARKS AND PRAYER**

Bishop Michael observed that there could be very few Synods in Anglican Dioceses across the world where there had been so much deep, cumulative, interactive theology articulated and he was humbled by it. He thanked all those who reported back from the discussion groups and indeed all Synod participants who were part of working through this theology derived from contemplation of the God who made us.

"May you be blessed in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen"