

The United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway Synod 12 May 2018

The Diocesan Synod took place in the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock on Saturday 12 May, having been postponed from its usual March date due to the "Beast from the East". This may have accounted for the slightly reduced attendance.

The Synod began with a Eucharist at Holy Trinity, across the road from the Howard Centre. Bishop Gregor's Charge to the Diocese started with his announcement that he intends to retire in October this year. He then went on to talk about the qualities of humility, love, awareness and acceptance of our poverty, fallibility and limitations, the priority of forgiveness over condemnation, which give God space to be God freely among us.

The full text can be read in full here: <http://glasgow.anglican.org/2018/05/14/bishop-gregors-charge-to-diocesan-synod-2018/>

During the Eucharist, Sr Helena and Sr Alison Joy were admitted to be Companions of Our Lady and St Mungo, a new Community founded within the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway of the Scottish Episcopal Church from the Companions of St Luke – Order of St Benedict.



At the start of the business meeting, Bishop Gregor presented Revd Beryl Scott with flowers to celebrate her 90th birthday, commending her dedication and service to the diocese.

New clergy to the diocese were welcomed and then elections began for the various positions of Lay and Clergy representatives.

Synod returns were presented and discussed when it was noted that some figures are rising and we should be rejoicing in this. The issue of whether charges are paying the Living Wage to all their employees was raised and it was suggested that the question be included on the returns form. There was also a discrepancy in the figures for male & female members, explained by the fact that not every charge designates gender of communicants. There was consensus that a revised form was required.

Ann Jones presented the report on the Protection of Vulnerable Groups. 54 charges had completed the return. She emphasised that this is not a matter that can be ignored. Churches are globally regarded as being pretty useless at safeguarding and we must try to prove to the world that we take it seriously.

The Treasurer, Bob Burgon presented his report which had been approved by Council.



The diocese was looking to sell properties that did not meet the required standard for letting. The matter of ethical investments was raised and Synod was advised that this was up for consideration at General Synod in June.

Revd Kenny McAuley asked why we were maintaining a large capital deposits whilst there is abject poverty all around. This was discussed at length and the Treasurer agreed that we are financially strong and suggested that we need to ask for funds. There is a fundamental problem of charities giving to charity and the Dean suggested that we need a clearer understanding of our objectives.





Claire Johnson gave a very clear presentation on the General Data Protection Regulations which were about to come into force. She gave examples of what is expected and advised that there are resources available to help congregations comply.

The new Digital Missioner, Petko Marinov gave an enthusiastic report on his role and the need to have an online presence. He reported that 8 charges have no website and some of those that do have one are not keeping them up to date. He also discussed the need to engage with social media.

The Provost, Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth gave the report on the review of the Diocesan Constitution. The role of Regional Councils will change but they should continue.

A motion was put to Synod to extend the role of the Synod Clerk to include providing a link between clergy, charges and the bishop. After considerable discussion the Provost put a counter motion recommending that this should not be put into the constitution which was passed by Synod. There was a consensus that there was scope to consider the role of Synod Clerk to include HR matters.

At the conclusion of Synod, Bishop Gregor thanked all those who had prepared for and managed the various parts of Synod. The Provost then thanked the Bishop for his years of service to the Diocese and invited Synod to convey their best wishes for his retirement, resulting in prolonged applause.

