

Report from Diocesan Synod

Synod met on Saturday (28 November) for the first time in this three-year session. It was a lengthy meeting, covering the 2016 Diocesan budget and presentations from different groups working on the CV 2020 aims.

There was also the annual report of the DAC, and a report from the first meeting of the new General Synod, with a couple of London members sounding quite upbeat about it; the session was mainly concerned with inducting the new members and looking at the work plan, and a major focus on Syrian refugees.

The budget for 2016 shows that £22.4 million is expected from parishes in Common Fund and the remainder of the £31m expenditure comes from property and investment income. Of that, the biggest expenditure (£22m) is on clergy salaries, pensions and housing; the stipend will go up by 2.5% and +Richard was pleased that this was slightly above the national average. Other items were training, support for parishes, and of course the £2.3m contribution to the national Church.

+Adrian showed off his ball-throwing skills in a presentation about CV2020 sports programme for children based in Islington, of which he is the sponsor. He showed how this is having real success in reaching out to young people and bringing them into the church.

We also had a presentation from Capital Mass, a one-man charity supported by the Diocese and CUF, to bring parishes together and share resources. Because his resources are limited, he (the “one man”) hopes to work at Deanery level.

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