

WORCESTER DIOCESAN SYNOD
WORCESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

**Summary Of The Second Session Of The Fourteenth Synod
And A General Meeting Of The Worcester Diocesan Board Of Finance Ltd
Held At Bishop Perowne School, Worcester**

On Saturday March 6th 2010

1. Opening Eucharist

The opening Eucharist involved students from Bishop Perowne school led by the Revd Peter Haddleton. Bishop John presided. A magnificent candle holder shaped like a trumpet was offered by the school in memory of Tony Ballard.

2. Presidential Address

Bishop John talked about the 3 diocesan priorities, Authorised Lay Ministry, the growth of the Black Country as an opportunity for mission, his commitment to mission and the new 2020 vision group which will be set up to take the diocese beyond plans for 2016.

3. Christian Distinctiveness of C of E Schools

2 head teachers from CofE Primary schools spoke inspiringly about their work in Christian schools. The *motion 'This Synod welcomes the progress that has been made with the Christian Distinctiveness of C of E schools in the diocese and encourages clergy and laity to continue to be involved in supporting our schools,'* was passed.

4. Giving For Life

A very professional and encouraging presentation was made to Synod which passed the motion that, *'this Synod welcomes the production of the Giving for Life materials and commends them for use in parishes as a way of further developing Christian giving in succession to the "First to the Lord" programme established in this diocese in 2001.'*

Giving for Life responds to the generosity of God, and focuses on whole life discipleship of which giving is a part. John Preston the National Stewardship Officer was in attendance and spoke on giving.

5. Back to Church Sunday

A rousing presentation was delivered by Michael Harvey from the B2CS team. He encouraged us all to double congregations this September and beyond.

6. Election of Holland House Trustee

The Revd Ian Spencer gave an inspiring presentation on the history and work of Holland House, outlining his and the trustees' vision and plans for its future. Alastair Findlay was appointed as a trustee. The Very Revd Peter Atkinson was also appointed as a trustee. Holland House is a DBF property holding; the trustees of Holland House meet all of its expenses.

7. Financial Statement

Parish Share of around £5 million had been budgeted at 92% being received, the out-turn was 88% with variations between deaneries from 99% to 70%. It was important to be thankful for what had been received and in cash terms 2009 exceeded 2008. Expenditure was £300,000 within budget, thankfully but at the cost of there being higher vacancies especially early in the year as a result of holding posts vacant in 2008. Subject to audit 2009 would be at a near break-even figure. If the 2009 rate of Parish Share repeated at 88% in 2010 there would be a problem

8. 2020 Vision Group

Bishop John outlined the purpose of this group which will help the diocese to see beyond the 2016 deanery plans and devise a wider plan for the future.