

Diocesan Synod Summary
St Mary's Kidderminster
June 16th 2008

Anna Morgan and Jenny Lobleby of mass@barnabas, young people from St Barnabas Franche, together with the Revd. Fiona Haworth led the opening prayers including themes of fairness and persecution.

Bishop John gave his presidential address, see http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/work_of_the_diocese/doc_lib/PresidentialAddressJune2008.pdf

Alastair Findlay, Chair of the Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance, presented the report and accounts for 2007. There was much to be thankful for in the overall position and we should rejoice in receiving a parish share of £4.6M. Nevertheless £440,000 of parish share was not received (a total of 91.3% was collected) which on a budget of over £7M had a deficit of £244,000. (the Report & Accounts are at: http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/work_of_the_diocese/Annualreportandaccounts.php

John Yelland & Co was reappointed as Diocesan Auditor.

Rachel Edwards, Acting Communications Officer, presented the 2007 annual review with the Revd. Mike Rogers and Pete Williams telling their own stories from around the diocese as shown on the poster at: http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/work_of_the_diocese/doc_lib/AnnualReport2007Finalpdf.pdf

Alastair Findlay reported on the steps taken by the Bishop's Council in April to save some £250,000 on the 2008 budget. This was necessary because reserves planned for use in 2008 had been needed towards the 2007 deficit and at the current stage it was anticipated that less parish share would be received than budgeted. He outlined where some savings, including holding longer staff vacancies, and some additional income had been identified. Some parsonages quinquennial work to the value of £100,000 had been put on hold to make up the £250,000 needed, this would be reviewed as the year progressed.

The Revd. Garth Nathaniel reported on a national conference of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns which had covered issues such as involving black and ethnic minority people in the active life of the church (ministry and hierarchy), and its decision making processes.

The Revd. John Paxton, Social Responsibility Officer, introduced a review of the “Listening for the Truth in Love” commissioned by the Diocesan Synod meeting of November 2005 which set up a group to provide opportunities and materials to enable conversation about the homosexuality debate. The Revd. Duncan Ballard talked about how the information pack had been used in his deanery. Following discussion the resource pack was commended to deaneries and parishes for further use.

Bishop John thanked Canon Peter Middlemiss as he retired as Warden of Holland House for his work in the life of the diocese and synod.