

Minutes of a meeting held in York on Friday 6 July 2018

(1) WELCOME / APOLOGIES

Chair Rev John Dunnett welcomed everyone ...

Apologies had been received from: the Bishops of Bath and Wells, Europe, Huddersfield, and Southwell & Nottingham; and from: Simon Cawdell, James Dudley-Smith, Jeremy Harris, James Harrison, Simon Heathfield, Rosemary Lyon, Andrew Micklefield, Shaun Morris, Debbie McIsaac

JD welcomed 3 new members

- Rev Mark Murthen, London
- Mr Andrew Brydon, London
- Rev Henry Curran, Nottingham and Southwell

And a new friend, Mr Peter Adams

(2) BIBLE READING / PRAYER

Given by Sally Gaze on a reading from 2 Corinthians 4 (text attached)

(3) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2018

JD asked for approval.

Proposed – Jacob Vince

Seconded – Andrew Cornes

Unanimous

Matters Arising – item 4 of those minutes. In February JD asked EGGS to pray for Jane Patterson as she went through her CNC appeal: JD thanked members for their prayers. The appeal against her election was dismissed in all respects.

(4) CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Emma Ineson on being made Bishop of Penrith-designate

Sean Doherty and Jane Morris are leading worship Sunday 7pm

AOB

- GAFCON
- Meeting of the Methodists Evangelicals Together Conference

(5) THIS GROUP OF SESSIONS

Saturday business inc:

1 Safeguarding

JD offered a couple of comments received from +Peter Hancock as to how contributions could be

most helpfully made in the debate.

Discussion followed:

+ Paul Butler – independence far more complicated: danger of not owning it in terms of taking responsibility for it.

David Banting – danger of speaking when the + Peter Ball process is ongoing. However, our Synodical processes must acknowledge the reality of English justice – that people are innocent until proven guilty ...

David Lamming – echoed what DB said: a big issue

+ Paul Butler – point of fact: ICOSA doesn't finish with C of E: we won't hear ICOSA's final word until the middle of next year ...

Jonathan Alderton-Ford: in some parishes, when it is revealed that popular people are not what they seem, then despite all the evidence some people will not accept the reality – churches split, and clergy are wounded

Ian Paul – how do you resolve the tension between holding one another to account & acknowledging what has gone on ... and the reputation of the church? When we speak in Synod, there is a press gallery and we need to be aware of that.

Stephen Hofmeyr – any organization will put itself forward to have independent investigation / outside inspection but should never give up the right to control .

2 Afternoon seminars and workshops

A combination of sex and football ...

JD asked who is intending to attend which seminar ... does EGGG have a reasonable spread across the board ...?

JD invited those involved in delivery to stand

Sean Doherty encouraged everyone to make a full contribution ...

Mary Durlacher – what confidence can we have that our contributions will make a difference?

Jason Roach – if you write comments down, they WILL influence the process ...

Before moving on to Sunday business, JD then invited the meeting to pray in silence for the Safeguarding debate and all involved in and affected by it ...

Sunday business inc:

1 Climate change / investments

NIB investment – ask for clarification and make a warning. Shouldn't totally disinvest in fossil fuels because recently shareholders have made significant impact. Warning: one thing for us in GS to demand disinvestment, but every week we fill our cars with petrol / diesel ...

Carl Hughes – intends to speak, as a Director of an oil company. Our investment managers are

world class and we don't need amateurs in GS second-guessing what that team does. Also you can't put coal and natural gas in the same bucket!

Ian Paul – on the ABC's investment group. Very impressed with its approach to ethical issues ...

Brian Wilson – a member of the Pensions Board – approach to investment to fossil fuels has changed markedly in the last 7 years ...

Gavin Oldham – A Church Commissioner – all colleagues are passionate about stopping climate change, but believe we should do that by staying in rather than getting out of the tent ...

Clive Scowen – reminder that there is another environment motion ...

2 Ethics of nuclear weapons

Jonathan Alderton-Ford ... truth is that chemical weapons constitute a much bigger threat. Nuclear weapons are relatively quantifiable ... chemical weapons are far less so

Jonathan Chaffey – Chaplain in the RAF – society has more pressing concerns ... but the report lead in was helpful. Rather than going strongly down one route or another, let's have a good debate ...

David Lamming – might it be sensible to have the debate and then not vote?

Sean Doherty – novelty factor in his agreeing with + Chelmsford & + Manchester. Main body of Christian ethical tradition has landed on the belief that nuclear weapons are uniquely awful.

Monday business inc:

1 Archbishops Council Annual Report and Budget

JD thanked Carl Hughes for his paper ...

Debbie Buggs asked clergy present: would you entertain a proposal of your common fund being reduced by £5k per annum on the proviso that you give that sum to another parish? Stops the 'tax and spend' approach, and helps us support one another

Angus Macleay A very blunt tool ... dioceses are very different ... fears significant loss of clergy in some dioceses if this were implemented

Carl Hughes – concern that the result would see a 10% cut to ABC's budget, which is not 'plump'

+ Pete Broadbent – every penny raised through CF in London goes to pay clergy – central costs are covered by investments ...

2 Legislative business

JD thanked David Lamming for his paper ...

Clive Scowen – only controversial thing is Church Representation Rules – 15 amendments already down, all of them from members of EGGS (6 of them Clive's!)

1 is to do with the proportionality of those on ER and those on Deanery Synods ... at the moment, dioceses can do what they like on this ... a proportionate system works. Shouldn't be a matter for

Diocesan discretion because it impinges on the integrity of the National Synod ...

JD – take note, be there and support Clive

Jonathan Alderton-Ford: minimum number of PCC meetings per year ... system is open to serious abuse ... we were asked this 4 years ago, gave a very clear decision, disappointing to see it reappear

Sally Gaze – MP & EP: importance of daily prayer and clergy having that commitment to a daily rhythm of prayer. Bishops should give a general direction to their parishes and clergy ...

+ Pete Broadbent – reminder of how awful the previous debate on Church Representation Rules was ... danger of people saying it must work in my patch and therefore make it universal ... no legislation can ever be universal because we are so diverse. What works in large churches doesn't work for small, what works in city and town may have little relevance in rural areas

David Lamming – Sally's motion will need 40 members to stand ...

+ Pete B – strong rebuttal / safeguarding demands this – the only safe way is a National Register ...

At this point, JD informed the meeting he intended to defer item 6 on our agenda, in order to give more time to AOB / GAFCON; he invited and received the meeting's assent to go beyond 9.30pm.

3 Sustainability of NHS

Gavin Collins – amendment about the funding of the NHS ... mandatory insurance for the higher rate tax payers ...

Nick Land – won't support GC's amendment because it would be disastrous. He pointed out that a minimum 50,000 members of the NHS attending churches – are we equipping them to be the leaders of the NHS?

4 Archbishops' Evangelism Task Group Report

JD – ought to be a place we can make effective and helpful contributions

Philip Plyming – please emphasise the importance of evangelism in training institutions

Susie Leafe – a problem with the whole thing. 2 people have resigned recently because words are being used differently ... how do we recapture those words for what we mean?

Alison Coulter responded that she has remained on the Evangelism Task Group and wants to argue for working inside rather than outside the tent.

Task Group has finished its work ... how will the C of E continue to make this a priority?

Tuesday business inc:

1 Cathedrals Working Group –

JD thanked Carl Hughes for his paper ...

Carl Hughes: Much of what is said echoes the report of the early 1990s. C of E failed to follow

through many of the recommendations of that report. CH encourages support so that more work can be done ...

Lisa Battye invited any residentiary canons to speak with her after the meeting

2 Amendments – Standing Orders Committee.

Clive Scowen – EGGS is well represented on this Committee

Proposal is that any amendment on any subject will need 25 members to stand for the debate to continue = a big change

Movement for closure – Chairs will be able to do that on their own, without the support of Mr Freeman. The Chair will need consent of Synod; and any member will continue to be able to move for closure ...

Item 6 on the agenda was not taken

(7) NOTIFIED AOB

1 GAFCON – Charlie Skrine

JD – 19 EGGS members attended ...

Charlie Skrine offered the meeting a brief/personal report :

2 things stood out

1 Huge unity – very international, very global ...

- ‘Anglo-Catholic communion services with things I’m busily taking out of my own parish’
- Great joyful unity that I don’t usually associate with meeting Anglicans

50 million of the 70 million global Anglicans were represented there ...

UK delegation – GAFCON group in the UK has been less representative than the rest of the world. Aim is for an umbrella group within the UK ...

2/3 of the executive leaders of CEEC were present

Over 15% of the EGGS membership were present

2 A big challenge to our unity here

Primates feel they have spent 10 years trying to persuade the Western Church leaders about the threat to the gospel ... they are tired of waiting ...

What is our response to the Letter written by 5/7ths of the Anglican Communion?

We’re in a unique situation because the person charged with holding the Anglican Communion together is our own Archbishop ... The primates can’t understand why he wasn’t there, or why there were no C of E bishops present either ...

JD opened up initially to questions from those who were not present

Emma Ineson – would I be welcome at GAFCON as a woman bishop? I’m also a member of

Lambeth design group – what would GAFCON say to me in that role?

Angus Goudie to what extent is the feeling expressed by Charlie based on being negative about the Western Church?

+ Pete B: we told them why we weren't going as bishops – we were required by the Jerusalem Declaration to swear what we could not ...

Will GAFCON UK change the requirements to make attendance by C of E bishops possible in future?

+ Julian / + Tim were not allowed to go because we wouldn't sign clause 13 of the Jerusalem Declaration – rejecting the leadership of other C of E bishops ...

+ Paul B – we pushed that even further: the letter to my fellow bishops was sent without the knowledge of other primates ...

+ Tim – has been to every other GAFCON without signing as a participant and observer. Need to have some agreed protocols ...

A member mentioned the potential danger in the development of an authoritarian rump. How can GAFCON retain the broad agreement of as many evangelicals as possible?

JD – comments from those who were present?

Charlie Cleverly – grateful to + Tim & + Julian for enlightening us ... it illuminates the immaturity of the leadership of GAFCON ... they feel betrayed / not listened to ... CC a very reluctant attender ... but impressed by what emerged ... the answer to Emma's question is complex. Several hundred bishops will not attend Lambeth. When it was announced that Uganda would not be attending, there were cheers – surely that should have been tears ... but GAFCON is far more significant than we realize here in the UK, partly because it is being damned with faint coverage in the press

Sam Allberry There's an agreement about the gospel which we don't have here in GS. We can't agree what the evangel is! GS / C of E is not going to reach this nation

Mark Lucas at all 3 G conferences and have all been brilliant ... GAFCON is providing leadership to faithful orthodox members of the C of E who feel let down by their own bishops. To see bishops preach the gospel, to confront sin and to call people to repentance is something I've not seen in this country ... to pray with bishops who are passionate about everyone being saved ... they face huge persecution but all they're bothered about is salvation

Stephen Hofmeyr – agreed with Charlie – it is a maturing organization

Tone & Theology: these are people with whom most of us would agree theologically but not tone. In UK, we agree with people who speak falsehood provided they do it nicely; and disagree with those who speak truth if they do it unwisely ...

UK delegation, in their discussion about how to take this forward, came to conclusion that GAFCON UK are not the best people to be in the forefront of the charge here – willing to step back and enable others

Susie Leafe – you can watch the whole thing on 'Gafcon Central'. A big change from 5 years ago ... a glorious occasion. I cried most days. Its Global, Anglican, looking to the future. Not just about one thing – set up networks on every imaginable issue (women's ministry, sustainability etc.)

JD invited those who had attended GAFCON to stand – and invited members to talk further with

them over w/e.

2 Methodist Evangelicals Together – Mike Booker

Brings greetings from this group – much smaller than EGGS

2 things

- Will we please remember and pray for them
- They do support Mission and Ministry in Covenant – many may seek ministry in the C of E if life gets harder for them in the Methodist Church ...

(8) PRAYER

JD – apology for going on so late

A bit of a nudge from one of the members organizing the Saturday afternoon seminars

- Don't get worked up about speaking your point, but ensure it's on paper
- Don't make the mistake of thinking anything is too obvious ...

JD led the meeting in saying the grace together.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.