

## Minutes of a meeting of the EGGS on Monday 10th February 2020 in the Harvey Goodwin Suite, Church House, Westminster

After eating together, our meeting began in worship as we sang 'Before the throne of God above', after which the Rev'd Mark Murthen led us in some reflections on Proverbs 27:5-6 (notes attached).

### (1) WELCOME / APOLOGIES

A number of members had registered their apologies.

John Dunnett (Chair) welcomed as members

The Rev'd Stephen Corbett (Blackburn)  
Mr Richard Denno (Liverpool)  
The Rev'd Fiona Gibson (St Albans)  
The Rt Rev'd Richard Jackson (Hereford)  
Mr Ian Macdowell (Chichester)  
The Rt Rev'd David Williams (Winchester / Southern Suffragans)

And also welcomed back the Rt Rev'd Mark Tanner (Newcastle / Northern Suffragans)

### (2) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2019

No requests for amendment having been received, the minutes from 5 July were accepted: proposed by the Rev'd Jonathan Alderton-Ford; seconded by + Pete Broadbent.

### (3) MATTERS ARISING AND CHAIR'S MENTIONS

Again, no Matters arising had been notified.

John Dunnett made a number of mentions:

1. as a result of the decision we took in York in July 2019 to amend the Constitution from November 2020, 15 members have resigned. A new 'Evangelical Forum' is being launched, and JD was keen to emphasise the Committee's desire that members feel free to attend both if they wish. As a result of the movement in membership over the past few months, our current membership stands at 123
2. the EGGs Committee has addressed 2 clergy vacancies left by the retirement of Jane Morris and the resignation of Sean Doherty. At this stage, it didn't seem right to organise a whole election process, so we have co-opted Rev Jason Roach for the remainder of the QQ
3. in response to a letter from the Prolocutors to the Archbishops, expressing strong feeling against the HoB guidance following the Government's extension of civil partnerships to opposite sex couples, and claiming to speak for the clergy members of GS, JD had invited clergy members to sign a letter. A large number of them did so and JD informed us that he had received a warm response back from Lambeth & an indication that support for the Pastoral statement would be welcome
4. the situation of Jonathan Fletcher – many would want to express profound sorrow that a member of clergy so well regarded over so many years should have been involved in the abuse which has been uncovered. We must all do everything we can to ensure that all our churches provide no space or opportunity for this sort of behaviour; and the Committee will reflect as to whether anything more might be said once the 38:1 review is completed
5. Rosemary Lyon is undergoing chemotherapy: JD led us in a prayer for her

#### **(4) THIS GROUP OF SESSIONS – INCLUDING:**

##### **Tuesday 11 February**

##### **Draft Cathedrals Measure – Revision Stage**

Carl Hughes – revision process has enhanced the Measure. CH happy except for one item which is the creation of the ER process for Cathedrals. An amendment will be tabled to require that membership should be defined by normal C of E ER terms – baptised members of the C of E or church in communion with it and over 16. CH believes the Steering Committee will support this.

Another amendment from Dean of St Paul's – CH believes it is excellent and encourages us to support it

Adrian Greenwood – a one-word amendment so that the wording will read 'work life and unity.'

##### **Deanery Term Limits**

Clive Scowen – Chair of Elections Review Group. The Review Group has received the highest number of returns to any Consultation known, nearly all concerning this one issue.

So it is now proposed that it should be up to the APCM to impose a limit if they so wish. Please encourage clergy to support laity in their aspiration to achieve this. If approved here, it will come back to GS in York where it will need a 2/3 majority.

There is also 'an enormous slew' of amendments in the name of David Lamming. CS proposing to accept them all.

David Lamming pointed out that his amendments apply not just to CRR but to all the election rules and procedures for conducting appeals.

+ Robert Innis – how will changes to Deanery Term Limits help to encourage younger people to join?

CS acknowledged that concerns have been expressed about fixed term limits

- recruiting members of DLTs, lay chairs etc.
- imbalance with clergy (who face no term limits)

DL is proposing that where a Diocese is in vacancy, the acting bishop should be able to attend and speak at GS

##### **Living in Love and Faith and the Pastoral Advisory Group**

Ed Shaw – this will be PAG's swan song, a video will be shown commending the 6 Guiding Principles

Jason Roach – the aim is to change the tone of debate in Synod, and to enable people to ask genuine, helpful Qs.

David Banting – there is some evidence that some people are using these principles against any expression of traditional theology.

Ed Shaw – self-reflection is key

If a Diocesan Bishop has taken a revisionist view, the power dynamic can be used to push back. But only use them in relation to others once we've applied to ourselves first.

##### **Wednesday 12 February**

##### **Safeguarding: response to recommendations in IICSA May 2019 Investigation Report**

+ Peter Hancock – spoke of the huge steps forward taken with regard to SG in the C of E, and the need to celebrate the hard work that has been done, whilst noting how much is yet to be addressed/reached for. The motion itself is deliberately quite narrow – IICSA have given us several recommendations to look at now, but will make some more challenging recommendations which we will debate in February or July 2021.

David Lamming – said that the Chair of the debate on Wednesday has rejected (under SO 28) a composite amendment to give more substance to what is quite a thin motion. However, that amendment will come in revised form, and among other things will specify compensation. + PH strongly supports this amendment ...

+ Jonathan Gibbs, a member of EGGs, is taking up the role of Bishop for Safeguarding, and is commended to our prayers.

### **Climate Emergency and Carbon Reduction Target**

Margaret Parrot – challenged the suggestion that this is the most serious issue facing humankind: redemption is the biggest need. She also challenged the use of words: as a c/w of a church which is falling apart and with an annual income of £7k, it is unclear how she can respond to this issue.

### **Private Members' Motion: End to Paupers' Funerals**

No comment was offered.

### **Children and Youth Ministry**

+ Paul Williams, lead bishop for Youth evangelism, referred to the paper from the Evangelism and Discipleship team in Church House, whose aim is to enable the good things which are happening. It highlights just how big the challenge is.

+ Richard Jackson – there is a glaring hole which will be jumped on by our revisionist friends who will interpret the reality that so many people have left in a very particular way. We have the opportunity to ask that Q in a more helpful way; and it certainly needs far more research

John Dunnett – we mustn't gloat nor allow it to be hijacked by very different agendas.

Gavin Oldham – an agreed amendment at end of paragraph A. Gordon Brown introduced a young person's trust fund – at 16 they are able to take control of their own account. GO wants to connect with the 16 'mega-deaneries' to talk through plans to invite young people to come into churches to talk about their Child's Trust Fund.

Mary Durlacher – Primary schools in rural areas with low numbers are being overlooked and penalised. Teenagers love to be part of a bigger group, which doesn't help smaller churches

Barry Hill – tonally, there has been a reaction to a diocese by diocese listing. Shame offensive is not helpful ... highlight the work of 'Amplify' which aims to help teenagers be evangelist

Martin Taylor – moving an amendment to call for more qualitative research. He does so as both rural dean in a rural county and yet also the leader of a larger church.

+ Paul Butler – may put an amendment asking that this be permanently linked to the 'Growing Faith' agenda.

JD pointed out that it would not really be acceptable for him to speak about CPAS in Chamber – suggested that the smallest churches can encourage young people to book on a venture holiday ...! A new 'type' of CPAS venture seeks to link 7 or 8 dioceses, bringing together several church schools.

Fiona Gibson – it is perfectly possible to grow youth and children ministry in small rural churches – her church has a vibrant 'forest church', with 60 people attending, half of them children; as well as a strong youth music group

## **Diocesan Boards of Education Measure – Revision Stage**

Clive Scowen, chair of revision committee – believes that they've done a reasonable job, providing a revised framework. The Q of whether DBEs should still be able to operate as unincorporated bodies.

Carl Hughes amendment: leaving out the option of being an unincorporated body as it is inappropriate for so complex a body to be unincorporated in this day and age. A large complex charity today ought preferably to be a limited company or charitable incorporated organisation.

+ Tim – suggested we should leave the options of being incorporated, unincorporated, or part of a DBF. Some unincorporated bodies work really well and can be made fully accountable through the DBF.

### **Thursday 13 February**

#### **Leeds DSM: Through His Poverty**

James Allison – the motion is not written well, nor persuasive, but ... it captures something of the heart of Bradford and some very faithful evangelists. It's a plea to the national church: can you help us find out why it's not working? Please put aside its faults and listen to its heart

Jason Roach – amendment (he suggested the brainchild of Kate Wharton). There's a quite straightforward answer to the question 'why we don't do ministry as well as Jesus'. Amendment addresses recruitment, training etc.

Alastair McHaffie – thought he knew how to do evangelism. Then moved to a more deprived area, and found it didn't work!

Kate Wharton – amendment makes the motion say something. It's about selecting and training more leaders from those communities, gathering and disseminating good stories

#### **Private Members' Motion: Legal Aid Reform**

Carl Fender – challenging a two-tier system and an unjust structure. The changes introduced in 2013 affect those most likely to be facing other life issues, and will be less able to navigate the system. He detects in the middle paragraphs of the background paper a possible attempt to pour cold water on the seriousness of the issue. A senior family judge has spoken personally about just how serious the situation is.

Carolyn Johnson – this is not about supporting the most vulnerable, disadvantaged parents in society: they all get full legal aid. This is about private battles by warring parents fighting over children. Blackburn diocese has church-based information sessions for separating parents before they go to court.

Stephen Hofmeyr – there is a crisis in our courts due to the state of legal aid. Judges are having to coach people seeking to defend themselves and are ill-equipped to do so. This is a crisis affecting the poorest people.

J Alderton Ford – smaller defence lawyers are being driven out, replaced by major firms who care little for the individual

Jason Roach asked for a moment to speak to the Windrush debate – he is introducing 2 amendments, one asking for an apology, the second asking for more research

#### **(5) PMMs**

This item was not addressed

#### **(6) ELECTIONS TO GENERAL SYNOD 2020**

John Dunnett reported that a small group has been working to coordinate an orthodox evangelical strategy, including

JD

Carl Hughes (EGGS committee)

Lis Goddard ('Awesome')

John McGinley ('New Wine')

David Banting ('Reform')

Sarah Tett (London)

CH – encouraged each diocese / DEF to have a team to consider their strategy for elections:

- engage with your local DEF
- carry out a data exercise before Easter to identify orthodox clergy and laity
- after Easter – encourage churches to take up the maximum number of places on Deanery Synods

If this all seems a little unpalatable, we need to be absolutely clear that other constituencies are doing this, have been doing it for longer and generally do it better. We need to get our act together.

JD concluded with 3 asks

- take a leaflet, which is also available on the EGGS and CEEC websites ([ceecgs2020.co.uk](http://ceecgs2020.co.uk))
- fill in the form on your table to indicate whether you intend to stand
- send in the election manifesto that you used to secure election, in 2015 or since

## **(7) EGGS IN THE NEXT QUINQUENNium**

Deferred to July

## **(8) NOTIFIED AOB**

None received

## **(9) PRAYER**

JD closed the meeting by leading us all in the words of The Grace

## **NOTES**

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