June, 2022 Memorandum to Synod Members:

Here is a hopefully helpful precis of the Anglican Diocese of Leeds in person Synod meeting held at St George’s, Leeds on Saturday, June 18, 2022.

Detailed minutes of that meeting will follow in due course, as per normal.

- Bishop Nick welcomed clergy and lay members and in his Presidential Address he listed the pressing issues that face the world, and the church, in this time of political, social and humanitarian challenges.
- And he explained how both the Bible and Christian vocation require engagement with those challenges in the glare of the public square:
  - “Some of the foundational texts from which our western democracies have derived their legitimacy and development – especially the particular settlement in the United Kingdom – are rooted in certain judgments and commitments.
  - “Notions of human rights and the rule of law did not drop from heaven and are not self-evidently right.
  - “If we claim that human beings matter and have value, or that truth and justice matter, we have to ask on what basis we make that claim.
  - “For Christians it is that every human being is made in the image of God.”
- After Bishop Nick’s Address, the 2021 Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance Annual Report and Financial Statements were noted, following presentations by Canon Mr Irving Warnett, Chair of the Financial Assets and Investments Committee and Mr Geoff Park, diocesan Chief Finance Officer.
- Canon Warnett said that while diocesan finances were in better shape than had been anticipated, there remained the prospect of a £900k deficit for the current year.
- He thanked Synod members and parishes for monies received through Parish Share and welcomed the Church Support and Deployment initiative, which aims to support parishes and nurture growth.
  - “You cannot cut your way out of a deficit, you have to grow your way out of a deficit,” Mr Warnett said.
- Geoff Park said: “2021 turned out to be a relatively positive year, despite the deficit and now the question is – where do we go from here?”
- Synod member Canon Professor Joyce Hill complimented the use of clear graphics in the Finance Annual Report – in particular the use of bar charts that showed the significance of Parish Share: “You don’t have to be an accountant to understand these and I’d urge that they are supplied to Synod members and transmitted to every parish.
  - “You can see clearly how Parish Share is so important, just by looking at these bar charts,” she said.
- Following the departure of Bishop Jonathan Gibbs to become Bishop of Rochester, Bishop Nick performed the statutory task of asking Synod for its opinion on whether he should request that the vacancy in the see of Huddersfield should be filled. This was agreed overwhelmingly by a show of hands.
- Jonathan Gough, Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven, moved that Synod should receive the Annual Reports of Diocesan Teams, and this was duly passed following a presentation by Diocesan Secretary Jonathan Wood on the exceptional work of the Safeguarding Team.
- Synod then heard an introductory presentation from Outer Bradford Deanery on a motion to be debated at October’s meeting, regarding the use of the Common Cup.
• Diocesan Secretary Jonathan Wood and Revd Jude Smith, Director of Church Revitalisation presented an update on the diocesan Church Support and Deployment initiative, which seeks to engage with parishes and identify tailored ways and means of providing support and resources to enable growth.

• Following group discussions, feedback stressed the need to communicate positively with clergy and laity and that best progress would be made if this was a collaborative process where individual needs and circumstances were discussed in context.

• Special thanks was given to our diocesan interns, who helped manage the practicalities of the day at St George's.