

# Synergy

A daily report on Synod 2015  
Diocese of Port Elizabeth

No 2 Friday 22 May 2015

## Shedding light where needed

Thursday saw Synod begin with the business of looking at the Measures and Motions that have been brought forward for debate.

All the Principles of the Measures were accepted and then debated at Committee in the evening. Their second reading will take place during business on Friday.

Of the Motions, all those debated during Thursday's session of Synod received a resounding "Aye":

### Standing in solidarity with persecuted Christians

A sombre air overshadowed Synod as they heard facts about the persecution of Christians in the Middle East. The Motion brought by Archdeacon David Stansbury spoke of the persecution of Christians in the Middle East by ISIS and asked for "the Bishop and this Synod to make public in the press" their outrage and condemnation of the continued violence against Christians in the Middle East and to express their solidarity with them.

The Revd Sipambo Ludidi spoke of the Muslim 'takeover' of countries and how this is happening in our diocese as more mosques are being built and businesses are being taken over. He gave Muslim growth figures pointing towards the demise of Christianity with the rise in the number of Muslims, but he thought he'd be dead by then!

Myron Leonard of Diocesan Council referred to the challenge by Bishop Bethlehem in his Charge, asking if we will be prepared to die for Jesus. This made him think hard - saying that we are 'safe' at present, so we need to pray and fast for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted.

After various cautions on the wording of the press statement by the Bishop, on being selective and on not including those who are not Christians, the Motion was passed, unanimously, as it stood.

### Other Motions passed unanimously - Diocesan Social Development Desk

The Revd Jogra Gallant requested the establishment of a Diocesan Social Development Desk which will link with, and collaborate with, HOPE Africa during the strategic planning process.

### Clergy wellness

The Revd Dr Eddie Daniels spoke of the need for clergy 'wellness', as opposed to 'well being'. He said there was not much research on the subject and that there would be many different responses from parishioners if asked what their expectations are of their clergy. With the result clergy often try to be all things to everybody.

Archdeacon Hazel Goodfellow said she is passionate about this subject because she had seen what happens to clergy who are not cared for and who do not look after themselves. She pointed out that clergy have the highest per capita incidence of stress.

The Revd Canon Relton Groepe spoke around prevention being better than cure.

### The prayer

May the Lord disturb you and trouble you;  
may the Lord set an impossible task before you,  
and dare you meet it.  
May the Lord give you strength to do your best;  
and then -  
and only then -  
may the Lord grant you peace.

Amen

Prayed by Maj Margaret Stafford during the opening Eucharist

written by Capt Daniel Strikland

*printed by request*

The Revd Nicolette Leonard spoke of clergy having to be a 'Jack of all trades' looking after family and the congregation who all want a part of them and they are not superman/superwoman able to do it all.

Synod passed the Motion requesting the Bishop constitute a committee to address the issues of clergy wellness.

### AHA Movement

Synod voted to embrace the spirit of the AHA movement when they passed the Motion brought by Archdeacon Zweli Tom. In doing so they will participate in the conversations to be championed by the movement in our region on poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Synod ran out of time while debating the Motion on '**creating space for every expression and style of worship within our diverse diocesan family.**'

Synod at worship



... and queuing for lunch.

Minion is sad to say that when many folk arrived at tea yesterday there were no roosterkoek left for them ... and asks that Synod reps be mindful of the others still to get food.



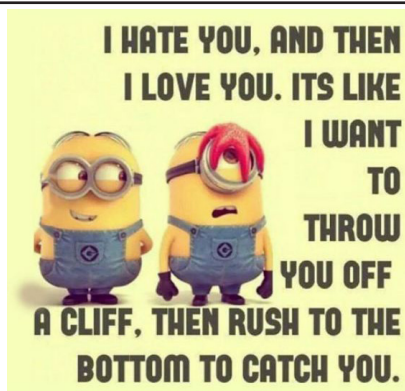
Synod has received written greetings from:

Archbishop Thabo,  
 Bishop Dan Kgomoso of Mpumalanga,  
 Bishop Garth from Table Bay,  
 Bishop Martin from St Mark the Evangelist,  
 Bishop Sitembele of Mthatha,  
 Bishop Steven Moreo of Johannesburg  
 retired Bishop Brian Germond

The diocese thanks Brian Marajh the Bishop of George for the thought-provoking teaching and Bible studies he shared with us at Synod. He reminded us the we need prayer, worship and reflecting on the Word of God to undergird our daily work. He gave us challenging questions based on the prophet Ezekiel (verses from ch 18, 19, 34 and 43) to discuss during our Bible Study time.

He was a breath of fresh air at the start of each day.

The Provost reminded the editor that the Bishop is a tithing member (in good standing) of the Cathedral.



Minion Mind-boggles



• Minion feels that perhaps the rector of the church in Summerstrand needs to visit a certain head of the family who live next door to his church, and who is only seen there once a year. Does this parishioner have a 'good' excuse - like working on Sundays?

• Synod reps jumped up when the order was shouted "All Stand" only to realise that a short cheeky archdeacon was being naughty and it was not the Bishop arriving.

• Minion noted that this short archdeacon likens himself to the Biblical David who fought so well ... only to have a slightly larger archdeacon named David trump him as being the Goliath of Synod. Mind you, Minion did hear a rumour about what happened to that Goliath - was he 'stoned' - no, surely not at Synod.

• Minion asks, "Is that a plane above?" He must be one of those parishioners of the only parish that has an airport! Minion asks, "But who wants that noise during Sunday service?"



When yet another archdeacon introduced himself as the rector of the parish next door to the one that had an airport a certain Dr Eddie chirped, "You may speak, Pontius Pilot!"

Just a thought!

Heck, Yes I'm Short!

God only lets things grow until they are perfect. Some of us didn't take as long as others.



Does a certain visiting Bishop come to mind?