

## ***You said, we said: Questions & answers from September 2021's diocesan synod***

### **1. How do we help ourselves and others through the pain of change?**

Bishop Philip said: "It is about recognition. We need to recognise that change is painful. We need to recognise that it is not just about the church. This is a time of pain for the wider world as well. There is a general sense of loss and pain. It is important to recognise that sometimes that manifests itself as anger or blame. And it is important to recognise where we are too. I often hear this current time being described as like the Exile - we've been pushed out of familiar place and we are waiting to get back. But I think the right model is the Exodus. We have left the old place and are going to a new place that we don't yet know. It is important to recognise we are in this together and that we share our pain. It is important above that we trust Christ. The future may be different but God is not absent. He is there in it. We need to be more prayerful to be less fearful and more obedient to God's call.

### **2. Should we be allocating a proportion of our parish finances to the work of helping the poor?**

Diocesan Secretary Simon Cade said: "The answer will be different in different places. Yes, ideally we should be doing this. But it depends on the circumstances of individual places as to what they can do."

### **3. Given the age of most of our congregations, what can we do to get them more involved in the life and work of the church?**

Bishop Philip said: "The age of our congregations is not a problem. They bring great experience and wisdom. The issue is that we do not have other ages in many of our churches. We often don't look like the communities we serve in that we have missing generations. It is not about asking more of those we already have but seeking to bring in others to help. It is also about making choices. As I said in my presidential address, it is about identifying your calling. Don't try and do everything and keep it simple."

### **4. Who decides on the membership of the leadership team for On The Way?**

Bishop Hugh said: "The deanery team that leads the On the Way process is put together by the Rural Dean and On the Way advisors in consultation with Chapter, Synod and the wider deanery, usually following the launch of the process at a Deanery Synod meeting. This aims to give a wide membership to the group, which

includes relevant representation, skills and the possibility of including people who are less often heard in this kind of work.”