The Crawford Commission's two-year investigation into finance, mission and development in the diocese has ended. But the work goes on.

Its final report – accepted overwhelmingly by Synod – proposed the establishment of a new Diocesan Planning Group, which will carry the commission's work forward and report back to the Standing Committee annually, based on discussions across the diocese on several fronts.

The commission's analysis has already led to a complete revamp of the way diocesan finances are organised (see Page 3). The challenge now, according to Archdeacon John Holdsworth, who presented the report, is to determine "how we use money to develop a sense of connectedness and of 'diocese'."

The feedback from three forums held last year will form the basis for part of the new group's work. The priorities are likely to include looking at ways that resources can be shared for the common good and how to encourage greater levels of individual giving, rather than relying on income from third parties. There is also a pledge to try and find ways round legal and other resources and links with partner dioceses, to encourage creative ideas that will strengthen strategic and financial planning.

Mission & Development
The report also welcomes "the vibrancy and diversity of mission and development thinking in the diocese." And the new group will continue to encourage creative ideas that will strengthen strategic and financial planning.

The Power of Compelling Persuasion
"God persuades. He does not compel..." Bishop Michael's opening presidential address urged delegates to follow God's lead, in their dealings with each other and with the wider world.

"Christians have no right of compulsion because God does not exercise his," he reminded us. And too often, when we adopt the gentle, persuasive approach, we are seen – and perceive ourselves – as weak. No matter. "Because we see in Jesus that God acts gently, persuasively, invitingly, Christians are called to be known for behaving likewise. Compulsion? No. Compelling? Yes.

Bishop Michael also noted that, in six years of presiding at Synod, the question of the identity of the diocese had been a constantly recurring theme. "We have All but three chaplaincies responded to the commission's Mission Development questionnaire. Their answers "bear witness to a vibrant church with a sense of fresh mission," Archdeacon John told Synod. Some envisaged a core set of diocesan activities funded by a core budget; activities; ministry selection, training and development, for example, and Spirituality and Retreat work. Some identified areas of work that would give the diocese definition and the opportunity to add value – links with partner dioceses, a framework for teaching and learning, a library, liturgical and other resources and support for new ministries and outreach projects. "All in all," the report concludes, "this has been a heartening process illustrating a diocese which clearly has mission ambition and which is at a relatively early stage in seeing how the concept of 'diocese'...can be supportive and enabling.”
God persuades. He does not compel: violence is foreign to God." That insight of theological truth comes from an early Christian document, the Epistle to Diognetus (vii:4), dating from perhaps only a few decades after the final writings of the New Testament. It is undoubtedly the fruit of the deepest meditation on the recent events of Jesus Christ’s way of living and dying and being, and on the way his disciples should therefore live and die and be. Christians have no right of compulsion because God did not exercise his. Rather, because we see in Jesus that God acts gently, persuasively, invitingly, Christians are called to be known for behaving likewise.

Do we behave likewise? Only sometimes and usually wishing we were stronger. Not to have the real option of or tools for compulsion - enforcement - looks weak. As bishop I am frequently told so.

Yet - and excuse me if English is not your first language - to be compelling is rather different from exercising compulsion. God in Christ compellingly attracts by sheer unlikeliness. How could the Messiah, how could the King, how could God be so fragile as to be an unprotected, not to mention time-specific, human being, taken unresisting and despatched by earthly powers? But that is how God in Jesus was, and Christians are the body of Christ.

This is the sixth diocesan synod of Cyprus and the Gulf at which I have had the privilege of presiding, and I see that through every one of them has run the theme of our identity. Is the diocese just the sum of its congregations or is it the sum and something more? Is our diversity of place and setting and ethnicity and language and background and economic power only arbitrary, or can it be held and even transformed in a larger unity? Is Cyprus and the Gulf merely an administrative unit of Anglicanism, or is there in its Anglican name the invitation to a particular and honourable way of expressing the faith? Is it a useful network for Christian enthusiasts, or is it a place where gifts and callings can be tested and shared with thoughtfulness for the common good? Is it a random and historically accidental collection of flawed, none-too-saintly churchgoers, or is it a humbling demonstration of what Christ’s fishing net trawls?

We have discussed these things and I know we shall go on discussing them. Most powerfully of all, we are the body of Christ, and Christ is compelling primarily in his gentle persuasive invitation and attracts primarily because of his unlikeliness. "Come unto me, all ye who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Mt 11:28ff).

Therefore when we say, as we often do, that we are witnessing, we are witnesses who have seen God in Jesus like that. When we say, as we often do, that we need to be mission-minded, we are being sent out from God in Jesus like that. When we say, as we often do, that we have a gospel to proclaim as evangelists, the gospel is the one that tells of the vulnerability of God in Jesus like that. When we say, as we very, very often do, that we enjoy fellowship, it is not principally our society with one another that we should be celebrating so much as our society with and in God in Christ Jesus like that.

As the five days of this year’s synod unfold and when we all return to our more normal places, I want us, in our dealings with one another, in our formal business, in our personal encounters, in our strategic decisions about people and money and in our tactical responses to situations that arise, in our councils and committees and groups and circles and chaplaincies and offices, in our thinking and in our communicating, to be persuaded that God persuades: he does not compel; for violence is foreign to him.

Wise Counsel

The diocese has a new - its first ever - Chancellor.

Stanley Hooper is a distinguished barrister - now retired - who will advise Bishop Michael on legal matters including Canon Law.

His career includes time spent in Botswana as a High Court Registrar, and as Diocesan Registrar.

He has also been HM Coroner in South Yorkshire and has lectured in the Universities of Sheffield and Leicester as well as Doncaster College.
SYNOD Backs Two-Year Budget Plan

Synod has unanimously approved important changes to the way the diocese organises its financial affairs, with the introduction of a two-year budget cycle.

The change follows pan-diocesan consultations aimed at seeking agreement on how the diocese should meet the increasing demands put upon it, largely by motions passed at Synod.

The Diocesan Financial Director, Canon John Banfield, said the change was intended “to introduce some sense of longer-term commitment on both sides in order to allow us to undertake the activities that have been agreed.” These include:

- Supporting the person and office of the bishop
- Maintaining a central administrative capability
- Managing the Synod and the Standing Committee
- Supporting the Province
- Implementing Synod-agreed policies on communications, protection of vulnerable persons, vocational training, spiritual development & mission and outreach

Presenting the 2012 accounts, Canon Banfield explained that the rising costs of development reflected the combined costs of a Spirituality Chaplaincy post and the recruitment of a Chaplain in Aden, which did not materialise although it’s hoped this will happen in 2013. The increase in Other Income in 2012 includes the costs of clergy training and the establishment of a selection conference to identify suitable candidates (see Page 5).

The individual chaplaincy contributions were calculated according to chaplaincies’ gross income in order to meet the balance between income and expenditure of €142,000.

How it is in Aden

The rising cost of supporting the mission in Aden was raised in the budget debate.

In response to a question from Rev Canon Andy Thompson (Abu Dhabi), John Banfield explained that of the €300,000 needed, the diocese provided just over half with the rest coming from fees for eye clinic operations and a smaller amount from local charitable donations.

Rev Peter Crooks, the delegate from the Yemen thanked Synod for their ongoing support.

The pioneering eye clinic run from Christ Church reported that the clinic’s 24 staff treated 5,000 patients last year, 60% of serious malnutrition.

“The needs are enormous,” he said, “but so are the opportunities.”

The clinic now has four doctors, two of whom are qualified eye surgeons. But more are needed.

“It is a work of faith and a labour of love,” he added.

Canon Banfield said diocesan support for the clinic was vital in order to show donors that the level of activity was expanding. And with their continued support, it would be possible to “get us back on a much more sustainable basis.”

A retiring collection for Aden, taken after Wednesday’s Evening Prayer raised £1,272, $21 and a Sterling five pound note!
MINISTRY & SELECTION - “A Milestone”

The introduction of new initiatives for selecting candidates for ministry and the training of selectors has been hailed as “a milestone” by Diocesan Director of Ordinands Canon Andrew Thompson.

The highlight, he told Synod, was the ordination of Rev Jo Henderson in Abu Dhabi, the first woman to be ordained in the UAE. But four more people have been recommended for ordination training and another dozen or so are waiting in the wings.

Alongside them, nine new Readers have been licensed in the diocese, seven in Cyprus and two in the Gulf, with four more pending in Bahrain.

“The diocese is coming of age,” he said. “This is a really exciting and encouraging time.”

Presenting the report, Executive Archdeacon John Holdsworth identified two key developments: the establishment of a Selection Conference and the introduction of the Exploring Faith course.

“The Church is what the diocese is about,” he said. This is a really exciting and encouraging time.”

Selection helps to define the diocese,” he added. “Having our own Selection Conference means we can find the right candidates that we need to serve here, meeting the needs of our unique situation with care and respect.”

The next challenge is to prepare the new ordinands

Food for the Heart and Soul

The daily evening and night prayer sessions were, for many, among the highlights of their Synod experience.

Led by Bishop Michael and other senior clergy, and the musical team of Canon Robert Jones and accompanist Mike Elden, each session embraced a synod-related theme within the chosen liturgy and, of course, prayer...

...and music.

The singing workshop was a particular favourite.

Protecting Vulnerable People

The diocesan policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons (PVP), have been elected as adopted by Synod last year, has been accepted in who will investigate every chaplaincy and any complaints or allegations is well under way.

First Aid

Risk assessments relating to children and vulnerable adults have been completed in most chaplaincies, many of whom have also undertaken First Aid training.

The next stage will be to compile a database referencing all those who work with children and vulnerable people across the diocese.

Group members will be happy to help any chaplaincy needing advice:

Chairman; Archdeacon John Holdsworth
Secretary: Christine Goldsmith (Limassol)

COURSE WILL BE “THE DEFAULT WAY TO TRAIN”

Exploring Faith is a distance learning course in six modules leading to a Certificate, Diploma and eventually a Degree in Applied Theology, accredited by Glyndwr University in the UK. Synod heard that it will be the default method of training Readers and ordinands unable to undertake residential training. Registration fees and text books for students intending to achieve a qualification will be paid for by the diocese.

COURSES TO BE OFFERED:

- Exploring Faith
-Exploring Faith
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COMMUNICATIONS: Lord, make us an instrument of your diocese

A new strategy - adopted by Synod - will put communications at the heart of diocesan activities.
The newly-formed Communications Group aims to:

- Present ‘diocese’ as a fundamental Anglican concept;
- Foster a sense of connectedness, making the diocese feel like a family rather than an institution;
- Co-operate with training and education strategies;
- Present the diocese to the wider world and the wider Church, fostering pride in its identity.

The group is also considering some innovations:

- A diocesan Facebook page aimed at younger people;
- An e-newsletter keeping chaplaincies in touch with the work of the diocese;
- A dedicated, web-based yearbook/directory and prospectus;
- A DVD lent course for 2015

There was praise for the new diocesan website, now ‘live’, and for both the diocesan calendar and the daily prayer calendar. The group chairman, Archdeacon John Holdsworth, thanked members for their “positive feedback” and for the group’s “enthusiasm, passion and dedicated hard work.”

Group members are also available to give guidance about relations with local media and with chaplaincy-specific publications.

MAKING NEW FRIENDS
(and remembering old ones)

The Association of the Friends of the Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf has issued an appeal for new members.

“We are an ageing group,” Friends’ Chairman John Worton-Griffiths told Synod. “And we need new, younger members. Being a Friend helps [us] keep in touch not just with our favourite chaplaincy but also with what is happening across the diocese.”

Legacies

John also expressed his surprise that Friends and chaplaincy members do not remember the diocese in legacies as it emerged that the diocesan Endowment Fund has not received a single bequest since it was established over 20 years ago.

“Many charities rely on these tax-free donations,” he said. “Surely we should remember to further God’s kingdom on earth when we depart this life.”

The 2013 Friends’ Spring reunion will be held at Glenfall House, Cheltenham, UK from the 23rd-24th April. The guest speaker will be Rev Canon Andy Thompson from St Andrew’s, Abu Dhabi, which celebrates its centenary this year.

Mary Banfield has stepped down as Friends’ Secretary, to be replaced by Sally Milner.

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER

Plans for a three-way get-together in Cyprus with sister dioceses in Thika (Kenya) and Exeter (UK) received a warm welcome at Synod.

The meeting is scheduled for October 26-31 with parties from Thika and Exeter joining half a dozen representatives from Gulf chaplaincies, hosted by church families in Nicosia and Larnaca.

The idea sprang from a visit last September for the consecration of the new St Andrew’s Cathedral in Thika. The bishops of Thika and Exeter were guests of Synod and both gave the proposal their blessing, even though both will be retiring prior to the event.

Bishop Michael Langrish, of Exeter, said the plan was an opportunity to “begin new relationships and deepen others,” while Bishop Michael Lewis believed “meetings are the key to trust.”

Nicosia delegate Deacon Carol Tyrrell said her visit to Thika had been “a life-changing experience. I was gob-smacked by the joy we felt,” she said.

Delegates also saw other opportunities growing from the revival of the tri-partite link, such as an exchange of chaplains and training for ordinands.
A new Spirituality Co-ordinator is to be appointed to support the work of the new Diocesan Spirituality Team.

The half-time post will be combined with an associate priesthood in a Cyprus chaplaincy and will run initially for three years.

The co-ordinator will

- help discern spirituality and prayer needs and how they might be implemented
- be a first point of contact for those needing help in the area of spirituality
- help chaplaincies and the diocese at large to develop their spiritual life
- provide resources for spiritual growth and prayer
  - (e.g. seminars, liturgies, service materials)
- assist the Retreats Facilitator
- generate practical and financial support for the Retreat and Spiritual ministries
- be responsible for the Spirituality page of the diocesan website

In addition, the team will oversee the work of the Spiritual Co-ordinator and support and review the Retreats ministry.

Synod has agreed that support for the Retreat Centre at Katafiyio should continue until the end of next year. The house was seen as a valuable asset and Retreats Facilitator Maggie Le-Roy, who presented the Spirituality Team report, was commended for her entrepreneurial activity to extend its use.

ACROSS THE BUFFER ZONE

This year’s Synod Eucharist was the first to be held on the other side of the UN buffer zone, the border separating the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. The service was held in the church of St George in St Mark’s Chaplaincy, Famagusta.
FORWARD IN FAITH: Following the Crawford Vision

The Crawford Commission report prompted the main debate at Synod.

Delegates overwhelmingly urged that the diocese keep the faith and follow the vision that the Crawford had embraced, whatever the cost.

Rev Simon Holloway, representing SE Cyprus, whence the original motion came, said: “People give to a vision. If it’s clear, they will give and without vision we perish. Let’s step out in faith and the funds will come”

Rev Canon Martin Bamforth (Limassol) agreed. “Stewardship has a great part to play,” he said. “This is a call for us to give sacrificially.”

Rev Canon Derek Smith (Limassol) praised the Commission for fostering a growing sense of partnership between chaplaincies and the diocese. But he was concerned about the growing gap in financial weight between Cyprus and the Gulf. “Our scriptures point out that money is a terrible master and a wonderful servant,” he said. “I hope that the Diocesan Planning Group will help us attend to that through shared decision making.”

Rev Canon Andy Thompson (Abu Dhabi) saw a transition “from maintenance to mission. It’s a messy transition,” he said. “But I believe it’s the only way forward.”

Power, Money, Sex & Time

Several speakers asked Synod to heed Bishop Peter Selby’s remarks about power, money, sex and time (see Page 8).

Justin Arnott (Nicosia) said: “The money and the power and the time we need, but we should also be doing these things out of a sense of love. That’s what unites us in Christ and it can unite us as a diocese.”

Keith Smith (Paphos/Commission member) hoped “the most positive, exciting Synod I’ve ever attended” would not end on a depressing note. “Surely, we need to answer [Bishop Peter’s] question. I would urge Synod to allow the new committee to carry on its work and go ahead in faith.”

John Samuels (Dubai) stressed the importance of strengthening the diocesan/chaplaincy relationship however long it took. “We have many plans,” he said. “and we’d like these to incorporate a diocesan Anglican viewpoint. But the diocese needs a clear vision, so it it takes another year or two is not important. Doing it is.”

Notes of Caution

Others, however, felt the time wasn’t right

Rev Deacon Carol Tyrrell (Nicosia) warned that her chaplaincy would struggle to meet the increasing financial demands of the diocese. “The recommendations would be excellent if we had a lot more money now and in the future. But we’re really strapped. Cyprus is in a downturn and we’ll be lucky if we can raise money for heat and light. It seems the Commission wants funds to do what it wants to do. Not everyone is comfortable with that.”

Very Rev John Tyrrell (Nicosia) feared a proliferation of committees, all of which will cost something. “We don’t need another committee,” he said. “These are good ideas but they should be shelved for better times.”

Where There’s a Will there’s a Way

Bishop Michael Lewis said Synod should imitate the widow. “Stewardship inspired the original motion,” he said, “and it will inspire the work of the Planning Group. Some of us think we have only a little, some a reasonable amount and some have a great deal at their disposal. We are all called to be fair, imaginative and generous with what we have.”

Robert Wickens (Paphos) said he had been against the Crawford proposal. But not now. “So much has been achieved,” he said, “and I’m happy to tell Synod that we have pledged more money because we have to go forward together as a diocese.”

Rev Chris Howitz (Oman) said Synod must resist the tendency to look inward. “Our perspective changes with how much money we have,” he said. “We may think we’re poor but we’re very rich. I would encourage that partnership that sees value in giving money even if you don’t agree with 100%.”

David Axtell (Bahrain) said that despite the problems in Bahrain (see Page 7) the chaplaincy had bought into the vision of the diocese and committed to a 25% increase in contributions. “I welcome the process of ongoing discussion and sharing of the vision as we continue to look at the items that have been highlighted.”

Replying to the debate, Archdeacon John Holdsworth said the Commission did not want funds for itself, but for diocesan activity in the chaplaincies. Its conclusions are not about implementation but about negotiation over how that might happen. “And in that, the voice of the small, poor chaplaincies is as important as that of the big, rich ones.”

The motion was carried by 58 votes to 3.
Lay delegates from each chaplaincy were asked for two pieces of good news...and two causes for concern. Their answers show that, in Cyprus & the Gulf, there is indeed Unity in Diversity. Here’s a selection...

### ABU DHABI
- Rev Jo Henderson has become the first Anglican Deacon to be ordained in the UAE;
- Building work is under way on the new St Andrew’s compound and will be completed in March 2013.
- Greater co-ordination of youth ministry is needed at either diocesan or provincial level.

### BAHRAIN
- The Remembrance Sunday service was attended by diplomats from several countries as well as a visiting group of Chelsea pensioners;
- The Living Room Dialogue programme features regularly in the Gulf Daily News, Bahrain’s main English-language newspaper.
- The continuing unrest has caused a 40% turnover in the congregation. Long-standing members have left to be replaced by others, including US Navy personnel;
- The Christian cemetery is running out of space.

### DUBAI
- Christ Church has had permission to hold services in Academic City, far from its existing base;
- Talks are progressing with the government aimed at allowing churches to worship legally in hotels etc.
- The diocese needs to be more focussed on presentation of the Gulf chaplaincies;
- Greater co-ordination of advertising vacancies would maximise opportunities.

### FAMAGUSTA
- A new Chaplaincy Council has been formed. Elections will be held annually;
- An influx of Christian students at the Easter Med. University has swelled numbers at all our churches.
- Finance continues to be challenging. Students, who make up a large part of the congregations, are not generally rich people.

### KYRENIA
- Attendances often exceed 100 with standing room only at busy holiday times;
- A new monthly Prayer & Praise service has been a big success and a new learning group has been formed.
- There is an urgent need to replace our Chaplain, who is retiring;
- Diocesan help with a standardised accounts package would be welcome.

### LARNACA
- A vacant shop unit nearby is being refurbished and will open as a charity shop in March 2013;
- Fundraising activities in 2012 raised €4000 more than estimated.
- The economic situation in Cyprus will make fund raising harder in 2013;
- Any extra financial demands on chaplaincies will be hard to meet.

### LIMASSOL
- Planning approval has been granted for the proposed extension to St Barnabas’ Church
- The new Church of St Lazarus at Pissouri is serving a growing congregation of residents and visitors.
- The economic downturn has led to a greater number of people seeking aid from the Church;
- There is concern about the funding of ordinands if this is not done centrally.

### QATAR
- The Anglican Centre now houses over 50 congregations. The final section is due to open in the Spring;
- Weddings have increased by over 30% in 2012. Twenty confirmations were also held (none in 2011)
- Guidance needed about sharing premises with other groups/designations;
- Communication between Church Council and the congregation needs to improve.
POWER, MONEY, SEX AND TIME

This year’s guest speaker was the Rt Rev Dr Peter Selby, retired Bishop of Worcester and a former Bishop of Kingston-upon-Thames. As a member of the Church of England’s Doctrinal Commission (1991-2003), Bishop Peter was co-author of ‘Being Human: A Christian Understanding of Personhood’ upon which the themes of his four addresses to Synod were based.

1. POWER: Do we think we have power? Probably not, Bishop Peter suggested. Did Jesus have power? No, you’d probably say. Yet he was considered dangerous enough to be executed by the authorities. So, unless we move away from a denial of power, Christianity does not relate to the world about us. Power and servitude can sit side by side; the scandal of the Cross upon which Jesus was the victim underlines the power of God as manifest in his son.

2. MONEY: What feelings does money arouse, Bishop Peter asked. Fear? Excitement? Regret? Worry? It probably depends on how much you have, but the chances are the more you have, the more these emotions will confront you. So is it money or the love of money? Too often, we mistake money for wealth. Possessions too. Money is the new divinity - Mammon. Like Matthew the tax collector, the man who has been bailed out of debt is the last to repeat such an act of generosity. Generosity is an act of resistance against the love of money. Yet without it, money becomes the new divinity.

3. SEX: Do you think you’re attractive? No! The you’re denying the work of God. God didn’t create men and women as an intellectual exercise; he did so as a celebration of love and desire - a community of lovers. We are not a duty to be performed but a longing to be fulfilled. On another level, this diocese has “the privilege of being on the front line between cultures that don’t like each other very much. We need to be clear about what God wants us to be - to be tolerant, delighting in both our differences and our similarities and finding attractiveness in one another.”

4. TIME: Why did God create time? Because otherwise everything would happen at once. So began Bishop Peter’s final address. Time, we’re told, is money; time is also power. And sex (love)? Well, that takes time too. Time is a gift not to be abused. Lots of people need more time than they’re given. So we need to use our time so as to be able to offer gifts of love whenever they’re needed. “Time will be realised by the one who is to come. And when He comes there won’t be an after. So we need to live so as to be prepared.”

A Moment of Peace & Quiet

Synod is busy. So the chance to take some time out for reflection is welcome. And where better than a place that embodies the contemplative life? Delegates spent a morning here. They listened to Bishop Peter. But mostly they spent time out with their thoughts, refreshed by hot, sweet tea and pastries while the monks went about their business as they have done for centuries.

But as we meditated, we only had to look up to realise that we were sitting on the front line of Europe’s only divided nation. For St George’s overlooks the UN buffer zone the border between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. For many in the diocese, these divisions are everyday facts of life. For the rest of us, it offered food for thought indeed.

The St George’s Monastery was the venue for this year’s quiet morning.
THE DIOCESE: A Beginner’s Guide

With a quarter of this year’s delegates attending Synod for the first time, it was felt that perhaps some explanations of what the diocese does, and where it fits into the Anglican scheme of things, might be helpful.

The Anglican Communion (AC) is a vast, global body of Christians, sharing a common doctrinal heritage but hugely diverse in national and linguistic identity. And amongst all that diversity, no other diocese is as diverse as ours.

Structure

The AC is divided into a series of more than 40 Provinces. The Church of England, for example, is one; the Episcopal Church of the USA is another.

OPEN FORUM

Open Forum time at Synod gives everyone a chance to air their views and this year’s session was as lively as usual.

There were two main areas of interest. One was about the most appropriate and creative ways of dealing with the Christian Muslim encounter in all its forms. In 2011 Bishop Michael had highlighted this as a special privilege of the diocese, and now people wanted to put flesh on that. In response to questions and comments from Canon Andrew White (Baghdad) and Rev Tim Heaney (Dubai), a special workshop on the subject was arranged, chaired by the bishop.

Experience

There was common acceptance that the Church is not in the business of proselytism which, in any case, is against the law in many countries.

Ours is yet another.

Cyprus and The Gulf is one of four dioceses in the Province of the (Anglican) Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East. The others are the Diocese of Jerusalem (covering Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Israel), the Diocese of Iran and the Diocese of Egypt (which also includes Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria).

The Province (and our diocese) was formed in 1976.

Most of the countries that our diocese covers are part of the Arab and Islamic world with limited numbers of indigenous Anglicans but extensive ex-pat communities from a variety of - not just western - national backgrounds.

The Diocese is the administrative hub of this spider’s web. Its prime purpose is to facilitate the mission of the Church, spiritually, politically and financially. And to foster a sense of unity within through the support of various programmes, decided from time to time by its governing body, the Synod. It also has a large part to play in meeting the logistical difficulties of an organisation covering a range of over 2,000 miles and ten political jurisdictions.

Our diocese is made up of 15 chaplaincies (parishes) grouped in two archdeaconries (Cyprus, and The Gulf). All the licensed clergy are entitled to attend and vote at Synod, together with two lay members from each chaplaincy.

The diocese was not endowed when it was established and today has only a modest resource in the diocesan Endowment Fund. 80% of its running costs are met by the chaplaincies and a further 15% is contributed by the Jerusalem & Middle East Church Association. The Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust (JEMT) runs a number of trust funds supporting the Church, including one (JEMT Cyprus) which owns all Anglican property on the island.

A Good Time to Buy

Synod has approved unanimously a plan for the Church to buy a permanent residence for the Executive Archdeacon of the diocese.

Diocesan Director of Finance, Canon John Banfield, called the idea “a no-brainer” at a time when buying property in Cyprus is relatively cheap and easy.

“All we have to do is find the money,” he said, promising that the Standing Committee would only act once a suitable financial package was in place.

“We see this as a long-term investment,” he added, “just as the position of Executive Archdeacon is seen as a long-term development. Purchasing this would give us security of tenure – and a 4% return on our investment.”

In addition to his executive duties, the present EA also serves as chaplain in Larnaca where the present house (which is rented) is located. Larnaca is seen as an ideal location, close to the airport and to the motorway link to Nicosia.
And the first shall be last

Synod doesn’t just happen. And it wouldn’t happen without these two ladies. Georgia Katsantonis (left) and Anetta Stylianou are the diocesan admin team that ensures everything goes according to plan. Scene@Synod salutes you!
GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS
A resumé of the motions tabled at Synod, and the votes cast

MOTION ONE: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod approves the minutes of the 2012 meeting

MOTION TWO: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
That the report of the Standing Committee/Bishops Council be approved

MOTION THREE: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod accepts the diocesan financial statements for 2012

MOTION FOUR: CARRIED 58 FOR 4 AGAINST
Synod approves the proposed diocesan budget for 2013/14

MOTION FIVE: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod authorizes Standing Committee to sign loan agreements up to €50,000 during 2013 if required

MOTION SIX: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod authorizes Standing Committee to authorize capital expenditure up to €5,000 during 2013 if required

MOTION SEVEN: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod confirms the election of Mr Chris Gibson as Trustee of the Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust (Cyprus)

MOTION EIGHT: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod receives the Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust (Cyprus) 2012 report

MOTION NINE: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod approves the option to purchase an Executive Archdeacon’s residence

MOTION TEN: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod receives and approves the various ministry reports

MOTION ELEVEN: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod receives and approves the report of the Diocesan Group for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons

MOTION TWELVE: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod receives and approves the report of the Diocesan Communications Team

MOTION THIRTEEN: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Synod receives the report of the Spirituality Development Team, welcomes its recommendations and requests the diocese to take appropriate action to implement them

MOTION FOURTEEN: CARRIED 56 FOR 3 AGAINST
Synod receives the final report of the Crawford Commission and encourages it for discussion in the diocese. Synod requests the Standing Committee to progress the conclusions of the commission by means of a Diocesan Planning Group, which will report to the Standing Committee on an annual basis.

The 2014 Synod will be held at the Lordos Beach Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus from Monday February 10th. to Friday February 14th.
**BOWLED OVER!**
Tenpin champ Sarah takes the prize

Ladies’ bowling night is a regular fixture and a firm favourite at Synod. And the competition is fierce!

This year, a dozen ladies from across the diocese took part in the contest, held over three ‘ends’ on two lanes at Larnaca’s Megabowl alley.

The final outcome remained in the balance until the very end. But as the last skittle fell, Sarah Hawkins, a lay delegate from Famagusta, emerged a worthy winner. Congratulations!

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**ELECTION RESULTS**

Elections were held for various posts in both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. Members from both Houses are elected for a three-year term of service as House Chairmen, on the Standing Committee, and for a five-year term as delegates to the Provincial Synod. Alternates are also elected. Elections to the Vacancy -in-See Committee, which meets to choose a new Bishop if needed, are held annually.

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**HOUSE OF CLERGY**

| CHAIRMAN: Very Rev Chris Butt (Bahrain) |
| STANDING COMMITTEE: Both re-elected |
| Gulf: Very Rev Chris Butt; |
| Cyprus: Rev Canon Derek Smith (Limassol) |
| (Archdeacons Bill Schwartz and John Holdsworth also serve as ex-officio members of the Standing Committee) |
| Alternates: Rev Dr Ruwan Palapathwala (Dubai) (2012-15) |
| Rev Zinkoo Han (Famagusta) |
| PROVINCIAL SYNOD DELEGATE: |
| Ven Canon Bill Schwartz (Qatar) (re-elected) |
| VACANCY-IN-SEE COMMITTEE - All re-elected |
| Ven Canon Bill Schwartz; |
| Very Rev Chris Butt; |
| Rev Zinkoo Han |
| Alternates: Ven Dr John Holdsworth (Larnaca) |
| Rev Canon Steve Wright (Dubai) |

**HOUSE OF LAITY**

| CO-CHAIRMEN: |
| Gulf - John Willson (Abu Dhabi) (elected unopposed) |
| Cyprus - Christine Taylor (Limassol) |
| STANDING COMMITTEE: |
| Gulf: Angela Murray (Bahrain) |
| Cyprus: Elizabeth Taylor (2011-14) |
| Alternates: John Willson |
| Bill Grundy (Kyrenia) (2011-2014) |
| PROVINCIAL SYNOD DELEGATES: No election held |
| John Willson (2011-16); Bill Grundy (2011-16) |
| VACANCY-IN-SEE COMMITTEE |
| Christine Taylor; Robert Wickens (Paphos) (re-elected); |
| Angela Murray; David Axtell (Bahrain) |
| Alternates: John Willson |
| Agnete Cleave (Nicosia) |

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**THE END**

In his closing remarks, Bishop Michael, thanked delegates for the “even higher than normal” quality of their participation and their contributions. “It’s been a huge pleasure to be together. We come from such varied backgrounds and from varied current locations.” The bishop also offered special thanks to the clergy of the diocese for “your faithfulness, your devotion and for your ministry, sometimes in lonely places. You can’t have a bishop without clergy; and you can’t have a bishop and clergy without people. We belong together. And if there’s one message that we want to live out in our congregations it’s that we belong to one another because we belong in God.”