

The Chichester Diocesan Synod - Women in the Episcopate Debate 8 October 2011

There was a well attended meeting of the synod with over 30 speeches in the debate on the General Synod Article 8 business, the Women Bishops debate.

The Bishop of Chichester had previously asked parishes and deaneries to vote on three additional questions; and these questions were also put to the Diocesan Synod.

The 'Chichester Questions'

- 1. Are you in favour of ordaining women to the episcopate in the Church of England?**
- 2. Do you think that provision should be made for those who cannot on theological grounds accept this development?**
- 3. Do you think that the provisions in the draft Measure are appropriate for this purpose?**

Results were as follows:

Q	Laity Y	Laity N	Laity Abs	Clergy Y	Clergy N	Clergy Abs	Bishop Y	Bishop N	Bishop Abs
1	46	30	2	40	29	0	0	3	0
2	73	5	0	64	5	0	3	0	0
3	26	50	2	32	36	1	0	3	0

The main Article 8 Motion debate

After further debate, the main motion was put:

That this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and in draft Amending Canon No 30.

Results were as follows:

Q	Laity Y	Laity N	Laity Abs	Clergy Y	Clergy N	Clergy Abs	Bishop Y	Bishop N	Bishop Abs
General Synod Motion	37	41	0	30	35	0	0	2	0

The main motion was lost in all three houses. *(One bishop had to leave before the ballot.)*

Following motions

The Synod then first debated the CEEC motion, as proposed by the deaneries of Battle & Bexhill, Cuckfield, Dallington, Eastbourne & Hastings:

- a. This Synod desires that all faithful Anglicans remain and thrive together in the Church of England and therefore:***
- b. Calls upon the House of Bishops to bring forward amendments to the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure to ensure that those unable on theological grounds to accept the ministry of women bishops are able to receive Episcopal oversight from a bishop with authority (i.e. ordinary jurisdiction) conferred by the Measure rather than by delegation from a Diocesan Bishop.***

This was passed:

For	Against	Abstentions
80	52	0

Then Synod debated a motion from the Dallington Deanery:

This Synod proposes that in the event of the failure of the draft measure to be accepted regarding provisions for those not accepting the ordination of women to the episcopate)then the amendment 514 made by the Archbishops to the General Synod of Saturday 10th July 2010 be reconsidered as a motion to be voted upon by General Synod

There was an amendment, based on the Manchester Diocesan Following Motion:

That this Synod [ie the Diocesan Synod] request the General Synod to debate a motion in the following form:

That this Synod [ie the General Synod] call upon the House of Bishops, in exercise of its powers under standing order 60(b), to amend the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and ordination of women) measure in the manner proposed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York at the revision stage for the draft measure.

This amendment was passed:

For	Against	Abstentions
66	63	0

And then the amended Dallington Deanery Following Motion was passed:

For	Against	Abstentions
87	50	0