

## **Motion No.5 Kilmore Diocesan Board of Education**

Very Revd. David S. G. Godfrey  
Dean of Kilmore

Embargoed until delivery

This is a technical motion to enable Kilmore Diocesan Board of Education to expand slightly to include the remit of the former Diocesan Committee for Religious Education. To do this we need the approval of General Synod to alter the number of Governors on the Board. So the nub of the matter is in changing the number of co-opted Governors from four to six as you will see on the last two lines of the motion.

There are some interesting things about this seemingly small matter. Many Synod members may wonder what this has to do with General Synod. In the process of researching how we could make this change I discovered that Scheme 108 is one of the more farseeing Schemes controlling Boards of Education in Ireland.

I am told that it would take an Act of Parliament to change some Diocesan Schemes. That was the first thing to make me feel that we were fortunate in Kilmore. Some people in 1892 had the foresight and wisdom to save us from entering the political fray to make necessary, if small, changes. Imagine politicians coming to the door looking for votes and being met with a request to back a change from four to six in our Diocesan Scheme. I can picture the glazed look coming over their faces.

As I looked at the Section 7 of the Scheme, which deals with the Alteration of the number of Governors, I could not believe my eyes when I saw something of great prophetic power. It was so farseeing that I have wondered should I breathe a word about it here in the General Synod of the

Church of Ireland. Someone, a faceless legal eagle, dared to envisage a time when we would all become Methodists or even Presbyterians. What am I talking about?

The final provision in this section reads like this – please don't go asleep just yet! – “provided that the number of Governors other than *ex-officio* Governors shall not be less than four, that the number of Governors shall not be less than seven in all, that one-fourth at least of the Governors shall be laymen”

- now follows the extraordinary and daring part – if you have fallen asleep do waken up now – “that the Bishop, the Archdeacon of Kilmore, and the Dean of Kilmore, shall, so long as those offices exist, be *ex-officio* Governors”.

So long as those offices exist! I could not believe my eyes.

What daring! What foresight!

I wondered, should I tell our fairly new Bishop about this?

Would it sap his confidence which I must say is considerable?

Would it ruin his vocation as a Bishop?

I did not dare ask what his wife Helen would think.

Was this a Trojan horse sleeping quietly all these years in our Diocesan Scheme?

I did tell him. His reaction was a fit of nervous laughter but no lasting damage seems to have been done. I don't think that I told the Archdeacon of Kilmore who is to second this motion.

I hope that he doesn't change his mind or lose it at the thought of such radical redundancy.

Now there are three of us – When will there be none of us? –

The Committee for Christian Unity should be aware of the dangers ahead.

Even still I ask you to pass this motion.