

Introductory note for the Diocesan Synod, 14 June 2025

To: Diocesan Synod members

Please find enclosed the agenda and papers for Diocesan Synod on 14 June at Holy Trinity Church, Broad Croft, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 0BD

The Diocese of Bristol is continuing its journey through the *Transforming Church. Together* process and your contributions, perspectives, and experiences are essential for the synodical debates to ensure that the views of the people you represent are heard. We would therefore like to urge you to stay for the full meeting please, to ensure that the decisions made by Diocesan Synod are representative - and reflect the views of - its full membership and the wider Diocese.

This Diocesan Synod is largely formed of four parts:

1. **Annual General Meeting:** this involves the annual director's report, financial statements and the appointment of the auditors.
2. **Routine Business:** this includes a report from the recent meetings of Standing Committee (Bishop's Council/Board of Directors/DMPC) Proclamation from General Synod, and an update about Annual Safeguarding Report and Audit.
3. **Church Buildings:** this section will introduce the newly established Church Buildings Team, outline the support available to parishes, and showcase recent church building projects successfully completed by two parishes. It will also focus on national funding streams and the impact of the Government's decision to end the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme from 1 April 2026. This section will also, at the request of The Revd Melanie Otto (City Deanery), review the Diocesan Synod's decision to allocate funding for the re-roofing project at All Saints (Corn Street), as approved in the 2025 budget.
4. **Farewell to Bishop Viv:** After 42 years in full-time ministry and 7 years as Bishop of Bristol, Bishop Viv's will be presiding over her final Diocesan Synod meeting. There will be an opportunity for Diocesan Synod to mark this occasion.

Written questions

Any written questions must be submitted 7 days before Diocesan Synod. As this is the case, please could any written questions be submitted via the form

(link in email) by 9am Friday, 6 June. This gives us time to direct your question to the most appropriate person and send you an answer prior to the meeting.

Minutes from 22 March 2025

If you have any proposed amendments or questions about the minutes, please do fill in the form (link in email) by 9am Friday, Friday, 6 June. The minutes can then be amended ahead of the meeting.

If you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact governance.support@bristoldiocese.org.

Note from the Chairs

As Chairs, we understand that Diocesan Synod meetings can be full and, at times, overwhelming with information. Our goal is to balance ensuring you remain fully updated without feeling swamped, while also providing ample time for valuable discussion and questions. To achieve this, we've implemented a few changes we hope you'll find helpful.

Papers Taken as Read

To allow more time for active engagement, standing items such as the Bishop's Council and General Synod reports will now be taken as read. This means we won't be presenting and summarising every circulated paper, but there will still be the opportunity to elaborate on certain items as necessary, and dedicated time for your questions on these documents.

Earlier Start Time

The start time of Diocesan Synod has been brought forward so we have time to properly thank Bishop Viv for serving as our President of Diocesan Synod.

Housekeeping Information

At the start of every Synod, we typically share a significant amount of housekeeping information. To use our time more effectively, we've decided to list this information here for your reference rather than announcing it verbally.

Accessibility

As times during Diocesan Synod, you may be invited to stand, this is an invitation only. Please only stand if you feel comfortable to do so.

Asking a question

All Diocesan Synod members are encouraged to ask questions; however, so that all hear and understand the context of the question please wait for the microphone and state your name and deanery before starting your question.

Navigating Sensitive Subjects

Please remember that we all bring a diverse range of experiences, including lived experiences, which shape our views and beliefs. While we fully support the expression of your views, we kindly ask that you are mindful of differing perspectives when contributing to Synod debates and in your informal conversations, with everyone who will be attending Synod. Respecting these differences helps uphold our values, including generosity of spirit, and ensures we meet our legal obligations.

Should any subjects covered at Synod be upsetting or triggering for members, visitors, or Diocesan Support Services (DSS) staff, please know that support is available. Simon Taylor and Geralyn Meehan are available to talk with, and additionally you can email governance.support@bristoldiocese.org during the meeting, and a member of the DSS will connect you with them or an appropriate person either immediately or during the coffee break.

Essential Information

- **First Aider:** A trained First Aider is available should anyone require medical attention.
 - **Fire Drill:** Please note, there is no planned fire drill during this meeting.
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Agenda, Diocesan Synod

Date: 14 June 2025

Time: 9.15am to 1.00pm (coffee from 9.00am)

Venue: Holy Trinity Church, Broad Croft, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 0BD

Topic		Abbreviation	Papers	Led by	Time
1.	Worship			Mr Alasdair Skeil (Swindon Deanery)	09:15
Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd					
<i>The Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol, in the Chair</i>					
2.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd for the period from 14 June 2025 to the AGM 2028 2.1 Election of Chair 2.2 Election of Vice Chair	LO	2. 2.1 2.2	The Rt Revd Viv Faull (Bishop of Bristol)	09:25
Chair of Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance (BDBF) in the Chair.					
3.	The Directors' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 3.1 Presentation of report	LO	3.1	Chair of BDBF (supported by Mr Stephen Sheridan, Director of Finance)	09:30
	3.2 Questions & Answers	Q&A			09:40
	3.3 Vote on motion to receive and adopt end of year Financial Statements	DE			09:50

Topic		Abbr eviat ion	Papers	Led by	Time
4.	Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 December 2025 4.1 Presentation of recommended Auditors	LO		Chair of BDBF (supported by Mr Stephen Sheridan, Director of Finance)	09:55
	4.2 Vote on Auditors	DE			10:00
5.	Appointment of members of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd			Chair of BDBF	10:05
Diocesan Synod					
The Revd Trudie Wigley (Chair of the House of Clergy) in the Chair					
6.	Welcome Minutes of last meeting, apologies	LO	6.		10:07
7.	Governance Reports 7.1 Bishop’s Council Report (24 March & 13 May 2025) 7.1.1 Questions & Answers 7.1.2 Motion: vote to receive report 7.2 General Synod Report • Act of Synod the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 as amended by the Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2025	I	7.1	The Revd Adam Beaumont (Member of Bishop’s Council and Vice Chair of DBE) and The Revd Trudie Wigley, Chair	10:15
		Q&A			
		DE			
			7.2 7.2 a 7.2 b		
		I			
		Q&A			

Topic		Abbreviation	Papers	Led by	Time
	7.2.1 Questions & Answers 7.2.2 Proclamation 7.3 Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) report 7.3.1 Questions & Answers 7.3.2 Resolution: vote to approve nomination and election timetable for DBE Committee	DE	7.3		
	DE				
8.	Question Time	D&A	8.	The Revd Trudie Wigley (Chair of the House of Clergy)	10:30
9.	Safeguarding Annual Report 9.1 Presentation of report	LO	9.1 9.1.1	Mr Adam Bond (Diocesan Safeguarding Officer)	10:45
	9.2 Questions & Answers	Q&A			10:55
Coffee break					11:10
10.	Bishop's Address	I		The Rt Revd Viv Faull (Bishop of Bristol)	11:25

Topic		Abbreviation	Papers	Led by	Time
11.	Roof Repair for All Saints (Corn Street) 11.1 Presentation of report	I	11.1	The Very Revd Dr Mandy Ford (Dean of Bristol Cathedral) and Mr Richard Leaman (Diocesan Secretary)	11:40
	11.2 Questions & Answers	Q&A			11:50
	11.3 Vote on motion (see motion below)	DE			12:00
12.	Church Buildings 12.1 Introduction of Church Buildings Team and support available to parishes.	I		Mrs Lindsey McCullam and Mr Neil Buckland (Church Buildings Senior Adviser)	12:05
	12.2 National Funding Streams	I		The Rt Revd Viv Faull (Bishop of Bristol)	12:15
	12.3 Joys and Challenges of re-ordering a church building 12.3.1 St Stephen, Southmead 12.3.2 St Andrew, Castle Combe	I			12:30
	12.4 Questions & Answers	D&A			12:40
13.	The Rt Revd Viv Faull's (Bishop of Bristol) final Diocesan Synod	I		The Revd Trudie Wigley (Chair of	12:50



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Topic		Abbreviation	Papers	Led by	Time
				the House of Clergy)	
14.	Blessing and Close			The Rt Revd Viv Faull (Bishop of Bristol)	13:00

Proposed resolution and motions for debate

3.3) *The Chair of the Board of Finance to propose:
that the BDBF receives and adopts the Directors' Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Limited for the year ended 31 December 2024.*

4.2) *The Chair of the Board of Finance to propose:
that the BDBF appoints haysmac as auditors for the year ending 31 December 2025 and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.*

7.1) *The Revd Adam Beaumont (member of Bishop's Council) to move:
That the Bishop's Council report be received.*

7.3.2) *The Revd Adam Beaumont (Vice Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education) to move:*

That the Diocesan Synod approves the proposed manner of election, timetable, and period of service for the election of members to the Diocesan Board of Education for the triennium 2025–2028 outlined in the Diocesan Board of Education report.

11.3) *The Very Revd Dr Mandy Ford to move:
Diocesan Synod has considered Bishop's Council's review of the future options for All Saints Corn Street, and concurs with its conclusion to proceed with the roof repair.*

Upcoming Synods:

20 September 2025 - St Michaels Centre, The Green, Bristol BS34 8PD

15 November 2025 - St Michaels Centre, The Green, Bristol BS34 8PD

21 March 2026 - St Paul's Church, Malmesbury Rd, Chippenham, Wilts, SN15 1P

20 June 2026 - St Michael's Centre, North Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8PD

21 November 2026 - St Michael's Centre, North Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8PD

Diocesan Synod legend

Purpose: to outline the functions of Synod (with abbreviations), and for those abbreviations to be used against each agenda item.

Function	
Discussion, and advice to the Bishop	D&A
Decisions on expenditure	DOE
Information to enable Diocesan Synod members to be advocates in a particular area of Diocesan business	I
Article 8 decisions passed down by General Synod, or fulfilling Synod's statutory legal obligations	LO
Question & Answer	Q&A