

Agenda, Diocesan Synod

Date: 20 September 2025

Time: 9:15am to 1:05pm (coffee from 9:00, lunch from 1:05 to 1:45)

Venue: St Michaels Centre, The Green, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8PD

	Topic	Purpose	Papers	Led by	Time
Mr Bruce Finnamore (Chair of the House of Laity) in the Chair					
1.	Opening prayer				09:15 10 mins
2.	Welcome 2.1 Introduction and explanation of purpose of meeting	I		The Rt Revd Neil Warwick, Acting Bishop of Bristol	09:25 10 mins
	2.2 Holding a safe and welcome space for all	I	2.2		09:35 10 mins
3.	Scripture (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) 3.1 Read through scripture and reflect	I	3.1	The Revd Trudie Wigley, Chair of the House of Clergy	9:45 10 mins
	3.2 Small Group Reflection – Arriving at the Meeting <i>In groups of up to three, each member is invited to respond to the following questions. Please record key thoughts for feedback:</i> 3.2.1 As you arrive, how are you feeling about today's synod? 3.2.2 What is one hope you have for today's meeting? 3.2.3 What is one fear you have about today's meeting?	D&A	Q&A Sheet		9:55 20 mins
	3.3 Feedback to Table <i>Groups to share key reflections with their table.</i>				10:15 10 mins
4.	Prayer (to include silence)				10:25 5mins



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5.	National Context of Living in Love and Faith (LLF) and Prayers in Love and Faith (PLF) including questions posed by House of Bishops 5.1 Update on the current stage of the LLF process	I		The Very Revd Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol Cathedral	10:30 5 mins
	5.2 To understand why the House of Bishops is seeking responses to its current questions and how the information provided will be used.	I			10:35 5 mins
	5.3 Questions posed by House of Bishops (mentimeter will be used)* 5.3.1 How familiar are you with the LLF process to date? 5.3.2 Describe in max 3 words how you feel about today's conversation on LLF? 5.3.3 How does LLF feature in the life of your church (choose all that apply)? 5.3.4 If standalone Prayers of Love and Faith are introduced, do you think your church would use them? 5.3.5 Which of the available resources on the draft proposals have you read (or seen, in case of the video) ahead of today's meeting?	D&A	Q&A Sheet	Mr Bruce Finnamore, Chair of the House of Laity	10.40 15 mins
6.	Prayer (including silence)				10.55 5 mins
7.	Question Time			The Revd Trudie Wigley, Chair of the House of Clergy	11.00 10 mins
Coffee break					11:10 15 mins



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8.	Managing LLF at a Diocesan Level 8.1 To consider preparations for the forthcoming national decision on LLF and explore the challenges and opportunities this may present for the Diocese of Bristol.	I		The Revd Will Fairbairn, Chair of Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship and Mrs Caroline Jowett-Ive , Co-Chair of Together	11:25 20 mins
	8.2 Small Group Reflection on LLF <i>In groups of up to three, each member is invited to respond to the following question:</i> 8.2.1 What one or two things strike you about what you have just heard? 8.2.2 What did you find helpful? 8.2.3 What might be a cause for concern? 8.2.4 What might need clarification? 8.2.5 In light of what you have heard, with regard to LLF/PLF, how do you want our new Diocesan Bishop to find the Diocese of Bristol when they arrive? 8.2.6 What can we do at both Diocesan and parish levels to work for unity?	D&A	Q&A Sheet	Mr Bruce Finnamore, Chair of the House of Laity	11:45 30 mins
	8.3 Feedback to tables <i>Groups to share key reflections with their table.</i>	DI			12:15 15 mins
9.	Prayer (including silence)				12:30 5 mins



10.	Next Steps <i>To outline the actions following today's discussion:</i> 10.1 Feedback to the House of Bishops in response to the national Church questions. 10.2 Collation and sharing of Diocesan Synod feedback regarding actions for the Diocese of Bristol. 10.3 Encouragement to share today's discussion with your deanery and PCC. Note: If today's discussion has raised any personal concerns, members are invited to speak with chaplains for support.	I		The Revd Trudie Wigley, Chair of the House of Clergy	12:35 5 mins
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11.	Prayer (including silence)				12:40 5 mins
12.	Close 12.1 Being together in unity and diversity. 12.2 Personal reflection on: How are you leaving today's discussion? (mentimeter to be used - max 3 words) 12.3 Share the Peace.	I D&A	Q&A Sheet	The Rt Revd Neil Warwick Acting Bishop of Bristol	12.45 15 mins
13.	Blessing			The Rt Revd Neil Warwick Acting Bishop of Bristol	13.00 5 mins
	Lunch				13:05 40 mins

*During the Synod session on *Living in Love and Faith* and the *Prayers of Love and Faith*, members will be invited to engage with several key questions using Mentimeter, an anonymous online feedback tool.

Please bring a smartphone, tablet, or laptop that can connect to WiFi to participate. If you are not comfortable using Mentimeter or are unable to bring a device, paper copies of the questions will be available, and support will be on hand to assist where needed. Your contributions—whether digital or on paper—are important and will help shape our diocesan discernment.

Upcoming Synods:

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