



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL
TRANSFORMING CHURCH. TOGETHER.

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

REPORT TITLE	Diocesan Synod Meeting Summary
DATE	21 March 2026
TIME	9.15am to 1.00pm

Diocesan Synod had three parts:

1. TRANSFORMING CHURCH. TOGETHER (TC.T)

Synod received a reminder of the origins of Transforming Church. Together (TC.T), including reflections on how the work began, the Diocese's shared vision for culture, and the agreed strategic outcomes.

This was followed by an overview of the TC.T workstreams. The majority were reported to be progressing well and, using a traffic-light system, most have moved from amber to green, indicating they are broadly on track for this stage of delivery. The Supporting Volunteers stream remains at amber, and the Inclusion stream at amber/red, both requiring further focused work. Two further areas, Budget and Parish Engagement, were also highlighted as amber and needing additional attention.

Synod then heard from three members who shared varied, engaging, and positive experiences of TC.T in practice.

An update was provided on the latest Stage 3 Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board bid, which, if successful, will provide funding to continue the TC.T programme through to completion in 2030.

Members participated in table discussions on the question:

"How can we enable greater involvement, and better support and encourage the work of parishes, Bishop's Mission Orders (BMOs), and chaplaincies in the shared vision of TC.T?"

Synod was advised that, over the coming months, individuals will be invited to increase their regular giving by the equivalent cost of a cup of coffee each week, in an effort to address the Parish Share deficit. The **#MyWeeklyCoffee** campaign was launched, with members receiving a leaflet postcard and a practical demonstration of how to make a donation.

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2. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Carbon Net Zero (CNZ)

Diocesan Synod received an update on projects delivered through the use of reserves previously approved by Diocesan Synod. Members were reassured that, although the use of reserves funding is currently paused, environmental work continues. It was confirmed that a full update on the Environmental Strategy will be brought to the next meeting of Diocesan Synod in June 2026.

Financial Strategy – 10-Year Plan

Synod was reminded of the context that has led to the current financial position before being presented with the details of the 10-year Financial Strategy. The presentation concluded with confidence that the Strategy provides a pathway towards a more balanced budget without undermining mission and ministry, closing Diocesan Support Services (DSS), or placing excessive reliance on Parish Share and fundraising.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions before a vote was taken, and the Strategy was approved.

3. ROUTINE BUSINESS

Routine business included the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) Annual Report, along with reports from recent meetings of Standing Committee (Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, and Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee) and General Synod.

ATTENDANCE: 61 of 101 Diocesan Synod members attended the meeting to vote and discussed a packed agenda.

61 attended in person

0 attended via zoom

VOTES:

1. The Diocesan Synod approved the Financial Strategy – 10 year plan.
2. The Bishop's Council reports for 1 December 2025 and 5 February 2026 were received.

ACTIONS: The following action were agreed at Diocesan Synod:

- The Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance (BDBF) will return to parishes to obtain data on the number of churches offering the use of Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF). Parishes were urged to inform the Bishop's Office if they have approved the use of PLF.