

Introductory note for the Diocesan Synod, 22 March 2025

To: Diocesan Synod members

Please find enclosed the agenda and papers for Diocesan Synod on 22 March at [STEAM \(Museum of The Great Western Railway\), Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EY](#)

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. Therefore, we kindly request that you remain for the entire meeting to ensure that the decisions made by the Diocesan Synod are fully representative of its entire membership and reflect the broader views of the Diocese.

This Diocesan Synod is largely formed of four parts:

1. **Routine Business:** This includes reports from recent meetings of Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, DMPC, and General Synod.
2. **Living in Love and Faith (LLF):** At this March 2025 Diocesan Synod meeting, Bishop Viv will report on the current state of play following the February 2025 meeting of General Synod. Time will be given for facilitated conversations and feedback afterwards
3. Due to the sensitivities and complexities surrounding LLF, Chaplains will be present at Diocesan Synod so that Diocesan Synod Members and support staff can be assured of support.
4. **Updates:** This section focuses on updates on the Diocese of Bristol's target of meeting Carbon Net Zero by 2030, and an update on the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust (DBAT). It also includes an opportunity for questions.
5. **Good News Stories and Youth Voice:** the closing section of Diocesan Synod will highlight good news stories from the parishes as well as Echo. Echo is designed to allow the young people of our Diocese space to express their faith, ideas and hopes for the church and the wider world and in turn, see their influence ripple through their Church communities.

Written questions

Any written questions must be submitted 7 days before Diocesan Synod, so please submit them via the form (link given in this email) by 9am Friday, 14 March. This gives us time to direct your question to the most appropriate person and send you a written answer prior to the meeting.

Minutes from 23 November 2024

If you have any proposed amendments or questions about the minutes, please do fill in the form (link given in this email) by 9am Friday, Friday, 14 March. 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.



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL
TRANSFORMING. TOGETHER.

Agenda, Diocesan Synod

Date: 22 March 2025

Time: 9.30am to 1.00pm (coffee from 9.00am)

Venue: [STEAM \(Museum of The Great Western Railway\), Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EY](#)

Topic			Papers	Led by	Time
	Worship			Mr Alasdair Skeil (Swindon Deanery)	09:30
Diocesan Synod					
<i>The Revd Trudie Wigley (Chair of the House of Clergy) in the Chair</i>					
1.	Welcome Minutes of last meeting, apologies	LO	1.1		09:40
2.	The appointment of members of Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd	LO			09:45
3.	Bishop's address	I		The Rt Revd Viv Faull (Bishop of Bristol)	09:50
4.	General Synod 4.1 General Synod Report	LO	4.1	Mrs Christiana Olomolaiye (General Synod Representative)	10:05
	4.2 Questions	D&A			10:10
5.	Bishop's Council & Board of Directors report (10	LO	5.1	Mrs Alison Rowe (Bishop's	10:20

Topic			Papers	Led by	Time
	December 2024 and 25 February 2025) (Motion below)			Council Member)	
6.	Living in Love and Faith	DI		The Rt Revd Viv Faull (Bishop of Bristol)	10:30
	6.1 Introduction by +Viv				10:40
	6.2 Table Discussion				10:50
6.3 Questions and answers					
Coffee					11:15
<i>The Revd Trudie Wigley (Chair of the House of Clergy) in the Chair</i>					
7.	Net Zero	I	7.1	Lindsey McMullam (Director of Property and Estates)	11:35
	7.1 Carbon Net Zero Update				
	7.2 Table discussion	D&A			11:45
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are you, your parish, and your deanery engaging in achieving the Diocese's target of reaching Net Zero by 2030? How can Diocesan Synod members help with achieving this target? 				
8.	Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust (DBAT) lessons learned, actions taken and implications for wider governance	I	8.1	The Rt Revd Neil Warwick (Bishop of Swindon) and Canon Liz Townend (Director of Education)	12:00
	8.1 Report				
	8.2 Questions & Answers	D&A			12:10
9.	Question Time	D&A	9.1	The Revd Trudie Wigley (Chair of the House	12:20

Topic			Papers	Led by	Time
				of Clergy) in the Chair	
10.	Transforming Church. Together (TC.T) 10.1TC.T update 10.2 Using Sharesy at Holy Trinity, Horfield	I	10.1 10.2	Mr Rob Mountain (Director of Transformation), and Ms Caroline Plaice (Chippenham Deanery)	12:40
	10.3 Echo: Youth Voice (video of Young People posing questions to Diocesan Synod for its consideration)	I	10.3	The Revd Adam Beaumont (Associate Archdeacon)	12:50
11.	Blessing and Close			The Rt Revd Viv Faull (Bishop of Bristol)	13:00

Proposed motions for debate

- 5: Mrs Alison Rowe (Bishop's Council Member) to move:
a) that this report be received.

Upcoming Synods:

14 June 2025 - TBC

15 November 2025 - St Michaels Centre, The Green, 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	
Article 8 decisions passed down by General Synod, or fulfilling Synod's statutory legal obligations	LO
Decisions on expenditure	DOE
Discussion, and advice to the Bishop	D&A

Information to enable Diocesan Synod members to be advocates in a particular area of Diocesan business	I
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