

Diocese of Bristol

Introductory note for the Diocesan Synod, 13 November 2021

To: Diocesan Synod members

Please find enclosed the agenda and papers for the Diocesan Synod at The Deanery School, Peglar's Way, Swindon, between 9.30am and 3pm on 13 November 2021.

As we meet in one of the Diocese's newest schools, there will be time allocated to reflecting on the previous strategy, *Creating Connections*, as we work towards the Diocese's next set of strategic priorities. Specifically, this will be focussed on our schools and also on the growth in curate numbers – both key elements of the *Creating Connections* strategic plan.

One other significant event to look back on happened at Diocesan Synod two years ago, when the Diocese declared a climate emergency. We will be getting an update on our environment and climate justice work and our progress towards the ambitious target of becoming target net zero by 2030.


Members will receive reports from the most recent meetings of Bishop's Council and General Synod, noting the transitional state of both these parts of our governance structures. We are pleased to welcome our new representatives on General Synod - who automatically become members of this Synod – and we will have the opportunity to hear from those putting themselves forward to serve on Bishop's Council for the next three years.

Looking forward, Diocesan Synod will continue the work that we started in September, as we help to discern our strategic priorities for the future, through the work of *Transforming Church. Together*. We will also look to the year ahead as Synod considers the financial plans for 2022 and votes on the budget.

Matthew Hall, Acting Diocesan Secretary

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Building relationships

Recognising that this Synod is still relatively new, the formal business in the morning will give way to a more relaxed time towards lunchtime, as members meet in their Houses to have lunch together, quiz those standing for Bishop's Council and get to know each other better. This opportunity to invest time in relationships with fellow synod members is invaluable and **all are encouraged to stay for this later part of the meeting.**

Lunch

In considering the environmental impact of this meeting, and having explored catering options, we are asking members to seek to minimise waste and **bring their own packed lunches** on this occasion. The Deanery School is very close to a Waitrose supermarket and food can be obtained there before Synod begins.

Sharing lifts

Mindful of our carbon footprint, please do also liaise with one another to consider transport options. We attach the membership list and contact details to help you arrange joint travel and for those travelling to Swindon by train, pick up from Swindon station by Swindon members.

Questions

Finally, we are conscious that members of Synod will have plenty of questions, especially if you are new. While there is a formal question time on the agenda, where written questions can be submitted in advance, we will also be providing question cards that you can fill in throughout the day, as questions arise.

Synod will also be supported by various members of the Diocesan Support Services team and you are encouraged to ask them questions during the breaks and get to know them better as well.

Agenda, Diocesan Synod

Date: Saturday 13 November 2021
Time: 9.30am to 3.00pm
Venue: The Deanery School, Swindon

	Papers	Led by	Time
Opening worship		Sally Robertson	9.30am
Diocesan Synod			
<i>Revd Trudie Wigley in the Chair</i>			
1. Introductions and Welcomes			9.40am
2. Bishop's Address		Bishop Viv	9.45am
3. General Synod report	Y	Martin Gainsborough	10.00am
4. Bishop's Council & Board of Directors report	Y	Nick Orman	10.10pm
5. Amendment to Standing Orders	Y	Matthew Hall	10.20pm
6. Reflections on <i>Creating Connections:</i> Church Schools	Y	Liz Townend	10.25am
7. Reflections on <i>Creating Connections:</i> Curacies			10.40am
8. Environment and climate justice update	Y	Clare Fussell	10.55am
<i>Coffee</i>			11.10am
<i>Bruce Finnamore in the Chair</i>			
9. <i>Transforming Church. Together</i> Update, priorities and next steps	Y	Christopher Bryan Neil Warwick	11.30am
10. 2022 Bristol DBF Budget (motion below)	Y	Andrew Lucas	12.10pm
11. Question Time			12.40am
12. Bishop's Council election interviews / hustings		Chairs of Houses	12.50pm
<i>Lunch</i>			1.15pm
13. Meeting and engagement within Houses of Clergy & Laity		Chairs of Houses	2.00pm

	Papers	Led by	Time
14. Reassemble as full synod and feed back / round up.			2.45pm
15. Blessing and close		Bishop Viv	3.00pm

Provisional dates and times of 2022 meetings:

19 March (9.30am-3.30pm)

11 June (9.30am-1.00pm)

19 November (9.30am-3.30pm)

Proposed motions for debate

4: Canon Nick Orman to move:

that this report be received.

5: The President to move:

that this Synod approves the changes to the wording of Standing Order 12, as detailed below:

Election of Vice-Presidents

12 Before the first meeting of the Synod after the triennial elections and where a vacancy occurs, as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, each of the houses of clergy and laity or where appropriate the one House concerned, shall hold a special meeting to elect one of its members to be a vice-President of the Synod and they shall each to continue to hold office as such until the election of his or her successor as chair. A member of the appropriate House appointed by the President shall act as Chairman for such meeting. Whoever so presides shall have a vote in the election and in the case of an equality of votes the decision shall be taken by lot.

10: Canon Andrew Lucas (DBF Chairman) to move:

that this Synod authorises the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Limited to expend in the year 2022 sums totalling £9,712,000 in respect of the items in the Budget for that year.

NOTES

1. BUSINESS

No business other than that specified on the Agenda shall be introduced except by the President or an urgent matter by any member who previously obtains the special sanction of the President.

2. ATTENDANCE

On arrival, members should indicate their attendance on the deanery lists. Apologies for absence may be sent to the Secretary via graham.shaul@bristoldioocese.org.

3. QUESTION TIME

Questions may be submitted in writing to the Secretary seven days in advance of the meeting and written answers will be provided and spoken to. Members may ask up to two original questions and may ask one supplementary question in respect of each original question. With a larger Synod, written questions and supplementary questions to them are prioritised and as many as possible will be addressed within the 10 minutes set aside. Verbal questions will be allowed if there is time.

Questions should relate to the duties of an officer or the business of the body concerned and should not ask for an opinion or the solution of either an abstract legal question or a hypothetical problem.

4. VISITORS

Visitors are welcome to attend. Please let Graham Shaul know. Visitors are welcome to participate in small group discussions but have no vote or voice in debate and the proceedings.

5. INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM AND DISABLED ACCESS

An induction loop system is available at Synod meetings. If you wish to use this facility, please speak to the Secretary on arrival. If you require disabled access of special facilities, please let the Secretary know in advance.

6. REFRESHMENTS

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available from 9.00am, mid morning and after lunch

7. DIRECTIONS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT & CAR PARKING

Please see attached.