



Introductory note for the Diocesan Synod, 18 November 2023

To: Diocesan Synod members

Please find enclosed the agenda and papers for Diocesan Synod on 18 November at Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon, SN5 7JL. It is **vital** that those attending stay for the whole duration of Synod, especially the more formal parts which require a quorum. We have come close to falling below this level at previous Synods.

This meeting is largely formed of **three parts**.

The **first** part will cover routine business and will include reports from the most recent meetings of Bishop's Council / Board of Directors / DMPC and an update from Transforming Church. Together (TC.T). It will also include a proposal to amend Standing Orders (the rules that govern Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council (Standing Committee)).

The **second** part will showcase how parishes from across the diocese have taken up TC.T and introduced new initiatives, as well as introducing the Diocese's newest BMO, The Well. It will also look at the financial plans for the year ahead in order that the Synod might approve the Bristol DBF's expenditure for 2024. Time has been built into the agenda for round table discussions and questions, so please do give time to thinking about any questions you might wish to raise at Synod.

The **final** part will focus on General Synod and the ongoing discussions about Living in Love and Faith (LLF). Time has been put aside so that Synod members have opportunity to discuss General Synod's response to LLF and ask questions.

Lunch

In considering the environmental impact of this meeting but also wanting to thank members for giving up their time, we are providing catered lunch. A catering company will provide soup and rolls.

As lunch is being catered, we do need to confirm numbers 7 days before the event. Please fill in the form (link in email) to advise if you are attending Synod and if you have any dietary requirements by 9am on Friday, 10 November.

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, 10 November. This gives us time to direct your

question to the most appropriate person and send you an answer prior to the meeting.

Minutes from 10 June 2023

If you have any proposed amendments or questions about the minutes, please do fill in the form (link in email) by 9am Friday, 10 November. 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.

Rise in Covid cases

In recent months there has been an increase in Covid cases. As this is the case, and because Synod requires a large number of people to gather, in close proximity for a prolonged period of time, we would like to encourage all those who be attending Synod to take a Covid test if they have any symptoms ahead of the meeting. If you are positive, please do not attend.



Agenda, Diocesan Synod

Date: 18 November 2023
Time: 9.30am to 3.00pm (coffee from 9.00am)
Venue: Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon, SN5 7JL

	Topic		Papers	Led by	Time
1.	Eucharist and commissioning of the Revd Andy Murray as Dean of Priority Communities			Bishop Viv Archdeacon Neil to preach	09:30
Diocesan Synod					
<i>Bruce Fynamore in the Chair</i>					
2.	Welcome Minutes of last meeting, apologies	LO	Y		10:30
3.	Amendments to Standing Orders (motion below)	LO	Y	Bruce Fynamore (on behalf of House Chairs)	10:35
4.	Bishop's Council & Board of Directors report 13 July and 12 Oct 2023, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Church Representation Rules (CRR) Scheme for The Well BMO (motion below) - Diocesan Synod Election Formula 2024-2027 (motion below) 	LO	Y	Alison Rowe, Bishop's Council Member	10:50
5.	Transforming Church. Together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update report (5 mins) - Table discussion (5 mins) - Q+A (10 mins) 	I		Rob Mountain, Director of Transformation	11:00
Coffee					11:20
6.	TC.T Good News Stories	I		Rob Mountain	11:35

Topic			Papers	Led by	Time
7.	The Well BMO	I		The Revd Paul Freeland, Leader of The Well BMO	11:40
8.	Bristol DBF Budget 2024 (motion below) 8a. Presentation of Budget 2024 8b. Facilitated round table discussion. 8c. Questions 8d. Vote on the motion	LO & DOE	Y	Richard Bacon, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance	11:50 12:00 12:10 12:20
9.	Question Time	D&A		Bruce Finnamore, Chair of the House of Laity	12:25
Lunch					12:35
10.	General Synod Report (July and November 2023), including: Safeguarding - Amending Canon No. 42 which was enacted at the July group of sessions of the General Synod	LO	Y	The Revd Canon Alice Kemp, General Synod Representative and Bruce Finnamore, Chair of the House of Laity.	13:10
11.	Living in Love and Faith (LLF) a. Theological introduction on mission and unity at a time of disagreement b. Report of General Synod's discussions on LLF c. Facilitated discussions in response to General Synod d. Reporting back from discussions	D&A		The Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol and The Ven Neil Warwick, Archdeacon of Bristol	13:25 13:40 13:50 14:20
12.	Conclusion, Blessing and Close			The Rt Revd Viv	14:50

Topic		Papers	Led by	Time
			Faull, Bishop of Bristol	

Proposed motions for debate

3: Bruce Finnamore (Chair of the House of Laity) to move: that this Synod approves the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders.

4: Alison Rowe (Bishop's Council Member) to move:

- a) that this report be received.
- b) the Church Representation Rules (CRR) Scheme for The Well BMO is approved.
- c) the Diocesan Election formula 2024-2027 as recommended by Bishop's Council is approved.

8: Richard Bacon (Chair of Diocesan Board of Finance) to move: that this Synod authorises the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Limited to expend in the year 2024 sums totalling is £13,983,578 in respect of the items in the Budget for that year.

Upcoming Synods:

16 March 2024 - St Michaels Centre The Green, Bristol BS34 8PD

15 June 2024 - St Michaels Centre The Green, Bristol BS34 8PD

23 November 2024 - Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon, SN5 7JL

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