



## Bristol Diocesan Synod Minutes (Draft)

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**Date:** Saturday 11 June 2022  
**Time:** 9.30am to 1.00pm  
**Venue:** Holy Trinity Church, Broad Croft, Bradley Stoke, BS32 0BD

The agenda and papers for this meeting can be found on the Diocese of Bristol website at: [Diocese of Bristol | Diocesan Synod \(anglican.org\)](http://Diocese of Bristol | Diocesan Synod (anglican.org))

<b>Opening worship</b>	
Revd Alice Kemp and Julia Childerhouse led an act of collective worship.	
<b>Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance</b>	
1.	<b>Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the BDBF for the period until the AGM 2025.</b>
Bishop Viv nominated Andrew Lucas as Chair and Richard Bacon as Vice Chair of the BDBF. There being no other nominees to these roles, Andrew and Richard were <u>elected unopposed</u> .	
2.	<b>The Directors' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021</b>
Andrew Lucas, as the newly elected Chair of the BDBF, talked through the <u>circulated</u> annual report and financial statements for 2021. He explained some of the background to the expenditure over recent years, through investment in new ministries, investing now in people for the future.  In light of the 2021 figures, he responded to a question about how realistic it is that Parish Share will go up as hoped in the future by clarifying that a small inflationary rise is built in year-on-year within in draft financial plans for the years ahead. It is a reasonable assumption to put in but will, of course, need to be reviewed.  He <u>proposed</u> that the BDBF receives and adopts the Directors' Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Limited for the year ended 31st December 2021. The members <u>voted unanimously to support</u> the motion.	
3.	<b>Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022</b>
Andrew Lucas <u>proposed</u> that the BDBF appoints Mazars LLP as auditors for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration. The members <u>voted unanimously to support</u> the motion.	
<b>Revd Trudie Wigley in the Chair</b>	

4.	<b>Introductions and Welcomes</b>
<p>Trudie welcomed Synod members, particularly visitors and new staff, Leanne Parkes and Rashida Hartley. She thanked Diocesan Staff who had helped prepare for the meeting.</p> <p>She explained that the <u>circulated</u> minutes are a brief record of proceedings which will be sent out shortly after each meeting, and then recirculated prior to the next meeting for comments and amendments. They will then be taken as agreed at the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies. Trudie noted 20 apologies from the House of Clergy and 12 apologies from House of Laity.</p>	
5.	<b>Appointment of the members of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Limited</b>
<p>Revd Toby Boutle has joined the Synod since the last meeting and is yet to sign the form which will be sent to him and other new members.</p>	
6.	<b>Bishop's Address – Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol</b>
<p>Bishop Viv gave her presidential address and focussed on our interdependency, the importance of mutuality and our reliance on God who moves between us.</p> <p>Bishop Viv's address is available on the Diocesan website at:  <a href="https://www.anglican.org/dioceses/bristol/synod-presidential-address-by-rt-revd-vivienne-faull">Diocese of Bristol   Synod Presidential Address by Rt Revd Vivienne Faull (anglican.org)</a></p>	
7.	<b>Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, DMPC report – Professor David Clarke</b>
<p>Alison Rowe presented the <u>circulated</u> report on the most recent meeting of the Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee. She encouraged lay members of the Synod to engage with the process of governance in the Diocese through the lay members of the Bishop's Council.</p> <p>She then <u>moved</u> that the report be received and <u>this was supported unanimously</u>.</p>	
8.	<b>Safeguarding Annual Report (to note)</b>
<p>Caroline Jowett-Ive (Diocesan Director of People and Safeguarding) presented the Safeguarding Annual Report, as <u>circulated</u>. She updated the Synod on current matters for the Safeguarding team, highlighting that there is currently a vacancy for a Parish Safeguarding Officer on the Diocesan Safeguarding Steering Group. She explained that the Diocesan team are very aware of the increasing requirement on parishes in relation to safeguarding and that it is an increasing burden. There is consideration underway about how the Safeguarding Team can better support parishes with this.</p>	
9.	<b>Bristol West Deanery</b>
<p>Matthew Hall (Deputy Diocesan Secretary) set the scene by reminding the members that in November 2019 the Diocese of Bristol declared a Climate Emergency and committed to reaching Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030. He went on to say that the BDBF <u>support</u> the motion being presented.</p>	

Revd Andy Murray presented the circulated motion, explaining how it came about and what it hopes to achieve in accepting that achieving net zero by 2030 is an enormous challenge which parishes in Bristol West Deanery want to support from the ground up.

The Deanery want to build connections across parishes, deaneries and the diocese in order to best achieve the targets, appreciating that it will need a coordinated approach across the diocese and made recommendations and practical steps for achieving net zero at a parish level. Andy went on to stress the importance of intentional support and partnership.

There were a number of questions of clarification before the synod members went on to debate the motion. Six members of the synod spoke in support of the motion before it was put to a vote.

Revd Andy Murray moved that this Synod recognises the need to take urgent and immediate action at a parish, diocese and national church level, in order to achieve the Church of England's NetZero Carbon targets by 2030. We affirm the national church and diocesan work currently underway regarding these targets. In addition, we commend the proposals outlined in the 'Bristol West Deanery NetZero Carbon (March 2022)' paper and we therefore call upon the Diocese of Bristol to formally consider the proposals and recommendations contained within the above paper with a view to identifying a programme of support targeted at parish level.

Synod voted unanimously in favour to support the motion.

#### 10. **Question Time**

Two written questions were received from Revd Capt Clive Deverell:

1) As someone who has worked with people, who have been made redundant and having lost a job to redundancy in the 90's can I ask that in future would it be possible that Archdeacons briefings are used to inform us of redundancies, appointments etc? In my opinion and I hope synod agrees? it shouldn't be left to the employees made redundant to inform us

2) Communication during periods of change and transformation is incredibly important. It helps widen ownership of any change. Can I therefore ask whether written updates can be given on bids and subsequent plans, preferably between synods so there is fluidity of information? Again possibly in Archdeacon's briefings? Or my preference a joint chairs of synod briefing?"

Paper copies of the answers were provided to Synod members and circulated with these minutes.

#### **Bruce Fynamore in the Chair**

#### 11. **Transforming Church Together - Strategy presentation and discussion.**

Archdeacons Christopher and Neil presented the circulated draft of the emerging Diocesan Strategy. They presented 4 case studies about how the strategy is designed to impact activities both at parish and diocesan level.

Richard Leaman (Diocesan Secretary) went on to talk about what the strategy will mean for parishes. Investment will be in people, leaders and ministers. There is planned to be more support in targeted areas, including children and families workers, Growing Faith chaplains, low-income communities, church plants and grafts. There will be a focus on building partnerships and teams, better use of our church properties and work towards achieving net zero.

The scope for the Diocese to invest in these key areas will be critically dependent on income from Parish Share, investment returns and National Church funding and plans will be reviewed and modified as necessary to reflect the reality of the income and expenditure.

Synod spent some time in groups discussing the case studies and responding to three questions: what do you love? what are your questions of clarification? and what the potential is where you are?

**12. Living in Love and Faith (LLF) Engagement**

Revd Chris Dobson talked the Synod through the process of engagement with LLF that the Diocese has been through to date. Revd Minty Hull then explained the aims of the time together and guided the Synod through a reflection on the experience so far, how that relates to the future and to consider what that might mean for the Diocese.

Synod members spent time in groups discussing and identifying one thing that needs to happen in order to continue the journey and turn the identified hopes of the process into reality.

**13. Blessing and close - Rt Revd Viv Faull**

Bishop Viv concluded the meeting with thanks to all Synod members and staff for contributing to a really engaging and positive meeting. She also noted that this was Matthew Hall's last synod meeting before he takes up his new role at Worcester Cathedral. She thanked him for his dedication to the Diocese and his expertise in his field before closing with a blessing.