



Bristol Diocesan Synod Minutes (Draft)

Date: Saturday 19 March 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 \(anglican.org\)](https://www.dioceseofbristol.org.uk/diocesan-synod)

Opening worship	
Chris Dursley and Julia Childerhouse led an act of collective worship.	
Revd Trudie Wigley in the Chair	
1.	Introductions and Welcomes
<p>The Revd Trudie Wigley (Chair of the House of Clergy) welcomed members of Diocesan Synod and visitors to Holy Trinity Church, Bradley Stoke.</p> <p>Richard Leaman was welcomed as Diocesan Secretary / Chief Executive and Matthew Chinery was also welcomed to the meeting as acting Diocesan Registrar.</p> <p>Trudie mentioned that a comment has been expressed about the need and practice of approving the minutes of Diocesan Synod meetings and that the adequacy of the current approach to reporting on the proceedings of Diocesan Synod would be examined.</p>	
2.	Bishop's Address – Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol
<p>Bishop Viv gave her presidential address and focussed on the Diocese of Bristol being 'here with you' with its renewed vision of 'humanity reconciled, creation restored'. The address concluded with a short film on the Vision and Values which can be viewed here.</p> <p>Bishop Viv's address is available on the Diocesan website at: Diocese of Bristol "Look forward with eagerness to what lies ahead" – Diocesan Synod March 2022 (anglican.org)</p>	
3.	Transforming Church. Together
<p>The main item on the agenda was the ongoing work of the strategy development process for the Diocese – Transforming Church. Together (TCT), with the draft strategy having been <u>circulated</u> to members before the meeting.</p>	

This began with a reflection on four bible passages, led by Revd Dr Simon Taylor (Director of Ministry Development), which each passage associated with the one of the values: openness, generosity, creativity and bravery.

The Venerable Neil Warwick (Archdeacon of Bristol) introduced a short video about the engagement of people from around the Diocese with TCT through their participation in 11 working groups. This video can be viewed [here](#).

Synod members were then invited to spend time discussing the following 3 questions together around tables, which had been circulated the previous week, and were then encouraged to feed back their thought, concerns and ideas:

- *What excites you about the strategy and the impact it will have where you are?*
- *What gives you concern or that you are unsure about?*
- *What if importance is missing or needs greater emphasis?*

There was a period of discussion and questions as a synod together which, together with the written feedback on tables, will help inform further shaping of TCT.

Richard Leaman (Diocesan Secretary / Chief Executive) then gave a brief explanation on the next steps in developing the strategy, including the timings around the planned bid for national church funding and the ongoing period of consultation to refine the emerging strategy.

Bishop Viv moved that:

this Synod gives approval in principle to the draft strategic plan for the Diocese of Bristol (as presented) and its direction of travel, subject to further work and final approval by Diocesan Synod in June 2022.

The motion was debated, with Trudie Wigley inviting those who wanted to speak for or against the motion to the front.

Having listened to the views expressed, Synod members voted and the result was as follows.
Votes:

For – 53

Abstentions – 4

Against – 0

The motion was therefore passed.

Trudie encouraged synod members to feedback via the dedicated email address and engage with working groups members, their deaneries, bishop's council, bishop's staff etc. between synod meetings before handing the Chair to Bruce Finnamore.

Bruce Finnamore in the Chair

4. Introduction to a potential proposal from Bristol South Deanery – to be noted

Bruce Finnamore (Chair of the House of Laity) introduced a potential proposal from Bristol South Deanery, as circulated, and invited the Revd Canon Gwyn Owen (proposer) to explain that he did not wish the proposal to be debated at this stage but rather to defer it for 12 months in recognition of the need to focus on TCT.

Bruce welcomed the desire for transparency and a view will be taken in 12 months' time about the reintroduction of this proposal.

5. General Synod report – Revd Kat Campion-Spall

The Revd Kat Campion-Spall (General Synod representative) presented a report on the most recent group of sessions of General Synod, notes of which had been previously circulated, and moved that the report be received.

This motion was supported unanimously.

6. **Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, DMPC report – Professor David Clarke
Including CRR Scheme for Pattern Church and St Nicholas Bristol**

Professor David Clarke presented the circulated report on the most recent meetings of the Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee.

In respect of a matter that had been considered by Bishop's Council, Bruce Fynamore then explained that Diocesan Synod would be asked to approve Church Representation Rules Schemes for two Bishop's Mission Orders (namely St Nicholas, Bristol and the Pattern Church).

Bruce explained a minor amendment to the dates on the circulated schemes to enable alignment with the time cycle for parish representation and moved that:

the revised Church Representation Rules (CRR) Schemes for St Nicholas Bristol BMO and Pattern Church Swindon BMO be approved.

The motion was debated, with Bruce inviting all those who wanted to speak for or against the motion to the front.

Having listened to the views expressed, Synod members voted and the motion was passed overwhelmingly (votes against: 1, abstentions:0).

In respect of the report itself, David Clarke moved that the report be received and this was supported unanimously.

7. **Question Time**

Two written question had been received in advance of the meeting, as follow:

From the Revd Kat Campion-Spall:

Please could we have an update at the next Synod in March on how engagement with LLF is going in our Diocese, and what we might expect to happen in the coming months?

From the Revd Canon Gwyn Owen:

Please could the procedure be outlined in regard to how Synod goes about changing or amending Diocesan Synod Standing Orders?

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

8. **Act of Synod - the Vacancy in Sees Committee Regulation 1993**

Bruce Fynamore introduced this item, the full details of which had been previously circulated, before proclaiming the following:

that at the Group of Sessions of the General Synod held at Westminster in November 2021 the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 1993 in the form it takes following its amendment in July 2021 was formally affirmed and proclaimed as an Act of Synod. An Act of Synod is the embodiment of the will or opinion of the Church of England as expressed by the whole body of the General Synod. Copies of the Instrument proclaiming and affirming

the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation as an Act of Synod have been sent to members of this Synod.

9. DBE Scheme – Rt Revd Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon

Bishop Lee presented the circulated scheme to reconstitute the DBE so that it becomes incorporated into the DBF and moved that:

conditional on the proposed scheme being certified by the Archbishop's Council in accordance with s.23(1), the scheme will be made on the date on the certificate on which the scheme comes into operation. The date of operation is 1st September 2022.

Synod voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

10. Blessing and close - Rt Revd Viv Faull

Bishop Viv concluded the meeting with thanks, final reflections, and a blessing.