



Diocesan Synod Report

Date: Saturday 13 November 2021

Time: 9.30am to 3.00pm

Venue: The Deanery School, Swindon

The agenda and papers for this meeting can be found on the Diocese of Bristol website at:

[Diocese of Bristol | Diocesan Synod \(anglican.org\)](#)

Opening worship

Revd Sally Robertson led an act of collective worship.

Diocesan Synod - Revd Trudie Wigley in the Chair

1. Introductions and Welcomes

Bruce Finnamore (Chair of the House of Laity) welcomed Trudie Wigley to chair her first Synod meeting as the newly elected Chair of the House of Clergy.

Trudie Wigley welcomed members of Diocesan Synod to the Deanery School.

Richard Leaman was briefly introduced as the newly appointed Diocesan Secretary / Chief Executive.

2. Bishop's Address – Rt Revd Viv Faull

Bishop Viv's address is available on the Diocesan website at:

[Diocese of Bristol | 'Courage, the devil is dead' – Diocesan Synod November 2021 \(anglican.org\)](#)

3. General Synod report - Revd Canon Martin Gainsborough

Martin Gainsborough gave a report on the most recent meeting of General Synod and looked ahead to the first meeting of newly elected General Synod later in November.

At the end of Martin's report, the newly elected representatives of General Synod were invited to stand, and Diocesan Synod members were encouraged to get to know them.

The six representatives are:

- Clergy: Kat Campion-Spall, Martin Gainsborough, Paul Langham,
- Laity: Brendan Biggs, Abby Scott, Ed Shaw

4. Bishop's Council & Board of Directors report – Canon Nick Orman

Nick Orman gave a report spanning the four most recent meetings of Bishop's Council / Standing Committee / Board of Directors / DMPC.

The motion to accept the report was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

5. Amendment to Standing Orders – Mr Matthew Hall

Matthew Hall (Acting Diocesan Secretary) gave a brief explanation of this proposed change to the wording of Standing Orders 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.*

The motion to make the necessary changes was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

6. Reflections on Creating Connections: Church Schools – Ms Liz Townend

Liz Townend (Diocesan Director of Education) gave a presentation on education work in the Diocese and specifically the growth of new church schools.

7. Reflections on Creating Connections: Curacies – Rt Revd Lee Rayfield and Revd Errol King

Bishop Lee interviewed Errol King (curate at Lawrence Weston and Avonmouth) about his experiences as a curate.

Bishop Lee also recapped that investing in curacies was one of the main strategic choices under the previous strategy (Creating Connections), which committed the Diocese to growing vocations to ordained ministry by 50%. This was in line with a national Church of England initiative in the light of the gap between ordinations and retirements. A 50% increase would largely meet overall stipendiary clergy deployment plans nationwide.

8. Environment and climate justice update – Mrs Clare Fussell

Two years after Diocesan Synod declared a climate emergency (at the Deanery School), Clare Fussell (Diocesan Environmental Officer) gave an update report to Diocesan Synod members on progress.

Bruce Finnamore in the Chair

9. Transforming Church. Together: Update, priorities, and next steps – Ven Christopher Bryan and Ven Neil Warwick

The Archdeacons led an item on *Transforming Church. Together*, introducing the Synod to the emerging strategic priorities.

A short video was shown as part of this item. This is available at:

[Transforming Church. Together – Vision and Values - YouTube](#)

10. 2022 Bristol DBF Budget – Canon Andrew Lucas

Andrew Lucas (Chair of the DBF) presented the budget for 2022 based on the circulated paper and then Synod members participated in round table discussions to follow up any clarifying points and share views on the proposed budget. 10 members of the Synod spoke to the subsequent motion.

Andrew Lucas moved 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.

Members voted on the motion by a show of hands.

Votes in favour of the motion - 61: Votes against the motion – 7: Abstentions – 4
The motion was carried.

11. Question Time

One written question had been received from Revd Canon Gwyn Owen in relation the number of stipendiary clergy, as follows:

What were the numbers of full time (equivalent) Stipended Parish Clergy (excluding curates and externally funded posts) in the Diocese of Bristol for the years 2000,2005,2010 and 2020?

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

12. Bishop's Council election interviews / hustings - Chairs of Houses

After lunch Synod members separated into their respective houses to conduct hustings.

Bishop's council nominees:

Clergy candidates: Revd Elveen Mead, Revd Beverley Charles, Revd David Stephenson

Laity candidates: David Clarke, Kate Davison (apologies), Chris Dursley, Martin Gibson, Clare Jefferis, Alison Rowe, John Sunderland, Abby Scott (apologies)

13. Blessing and close - Rt Revd Viv Faull

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