

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Christ Church, Oxford Governance Review: Background Note

Bishop's Council has provided in the agenda for a short update slot on Christ Church, with a view to the Dean updating Synod, in particular on the progress of its governance review.

Diocesan Synod was advised in June 2023 of the publication of the Governance Review by Dominic Grieve KC, commissioned by Christ Church, and that Bishop's Council would be considering the following month a response to it, taking account of any comments from Diocesan Synod members sent to me by 22 June 2023.

Bishop's Council did agree a response last July, which took account of comments offered and also drew on previous discussions in both Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council. A letter was subsequently sent to the Dean to provide Christ Church with the diocese's views on those aspects of the review that related to the Cathedral.

A meeting took place between members of Bishop's Council's sub-group and the Dean and Sub-Dean in March 2024 to explain and discuss some of the points raised by the diocese, and further discussion is expected over the coming months. Whilst it is for the Governing Body ultimately to decide the form in which revised Statutes are put forward to the Privy Council, it is hoped that it will be possible to reach agreement on the points of greatest concern to the diocese.

Mark Humphriss

Diocesan Secretary

May 2024