

## Diocesan Synod Report | 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### By Nick Stuart

The meeting was held in Leatherhead Parish Church where all the delegates were warmly greeted by the church's Welcoming Team.

The Revd. Will Perry gave a short talk on the developments which are taking place in the parish's outreach programmes across Leatherhead, with a focus on young people and bringing people to faith. We heard testimonies from two people who have recently joined the church.

The main business of Synod was to review the 2022 Accounts which were presented by Steve Roberts as Chair of the Board of Finance. These were approved unanimously as was the appointment of Mazars LLP to be the auditors for the 2023 accounts.

Steve then presented the first draft of the Diocesan Budget for 2024 along with the assumptions which have been made. A key one was the level of inflation to use to underpin the numbers. The draft proposal, based on a range of published forecasts, was 3.5% with a possible increase in parish share of below that due to cost savings. After several questions from the floor the Synod divided into small groups to discuss the proposals. They were asked to comment on them and to say whether the level of inflation to be used was as forecast or otherwise. As well as giving some feedback, Synod was split on the level of inflation to be used; some agreeing the proposed level and others suggesting it should be higher.

The Bishop's Council will discuss all the points raised by Synod and return with a revised budget proposal for the November meeting of Synod.