



Introductory note for the Diocesan Synod, 16 March 2024

To: Diocesan Synod members

Please find enclosed the agenda and papers for Diocesan Synod on 16 March at St Michael's Centre, The Green, Stoke Gifford BS34 8PD.

The Diocese of Bristol is continuing its journey through the *Transforming Church. Together* process and your contributions, perspectives, and experiences are essential for the synodical debates to ensure that the views of the people you represent are heard. We would therefore like to urge you to stay for the full meeting please, to ensure that the decisions made by Diocesan Synod are representative - and reflect the views of - its full membership and the wider Diocese.

This Diocesan Synod is largely formed of three parts:

1. **Routine Business:** This includes reports from recent meetings of Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, DMPC, and General Synod. Additionally, there will be an update on Bristol Diocese's progress toward Net Zero.
2. **Updates and Questions:** This part features updates on Transforming Church. Together, Education, and Finance, with dedicated time for discussion and questions.

Our aim is to bring these items to Diocesan Synod so we can acknowledge the progress made, understand any concerns, hear your advice, and answer any questions. Furthermore, we want to showcase the extraordinary work of parishes as they continue to both expand existing initiatives, as well as starting new activities with the support of the TC.T programme.

3. **Diocesan Synod Elections:** Most importantly, the current Diocesan Synod concludes on 31 July 2024 and the new Diocesan Synod will run, for three years, from 1 August 2024.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you - the members of this Diocesan Synod - for your commitment and generosity in volunteering your time and expertise over the last 3 years. You have played a crucial role in advising, debating, questioning, and approving our highly commended new strategy and its early implementation. Without your prayers, and unwavering dedication and support, this would not have been possible.

As we approach the election for the next Diocesan Synod, we encourage you all to consider standing again, and to encourage others to join in. We are eager to fill any vacancies, and hope that individuals of all ages, genders, areas, backgrounds, and lived experiences will stand for election. Our goal is to ensure that the Diocesan Synod mirrors the rich diversity of the diocese, providing a platform for every voice to be heard, and to contribute to shaping our direction of travel. As a current Diocesan Synod member, we value your unique insight into potential candidates, and your awareness of voices that may currently go unheard. We kindly ask for your assistance in identifying individuals who might be interested in expressing their views on significant matters related to their church community. Your support in this matter would be highly appreciated.

Information on how to stand for Diocesan Synod election will be sent out via email later this month and will also be available on the Diocesan website.

Written questions

Any written questions must be submitted 7 days before Diocesan Synod. As this is the case, please could any written questions be submitted via the form (link in email) by 9am Friday, 8 March. This gives us time to direct your question to the most appropriate person and send you an answer prior to the meeting.

Minutes from 18 November 2023

If you have any proposed amendments or questions about the minutes, please do fill in the form (link in email) by 9am Friday, Friday, 8 March. The minutes can then be amended ahead of the meeting.

If you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact governance.support@bristoldiocese.org.



Diocese of Bristol

Agenda, Diocesan Synod

Date: 16 March 2024

Time: 9.30am to 1.00pm (coffee from 9.00am)

Venue: St Michael's Centre, The Green, Stoke Gifford BS34 8PD

Topic			Papers	Led by	Time
	Worship			Kate Davison, Member of the House of Laity	09:30
Diocesan Synod					
<i>Mr Bruce Finnamore (Chair of the House of Laity) in the Chair</i>					
1.	Welcome Minutes of last meeting, apologies	LO	Y		09:40
2.	Bishop's address	I		The Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol	09:50
3.	General Synod 3a. General Synod Oral Report 3b. Questions	LO		The Revd Kat Campion- Spall, General synod Member	10:05
					10:10
4.	Bishop's Council & Board of Directors report 7 December 2023 and 20 February 2024	LO	Y	John Sunderland , Bishop's Council Member	10:20
5.	Net Zero 5a. Net Zero Update 5b. Table discussion 5c. Q&A	D&A	Y	Lindsey McMullan, Director of Property, and	10:30
					10:40

Topic			Papers	Led by	Time
				Amy Dartington, Environment and Sustainability Manger	10:50
Coffee					11:00
<i>The Revd Trudie Wigley Chair of the House of Clergy) in the Chair</i>					
6.	Transforming Church. Together 6a. Update report 6b. Table discussion 6c. TC.T Good News Story 6d. Q&A	D&A	Y	Rob Mountain, Director of Transformation	11:20
					11:25
					11:35
					11:40
7.	Education 7a. Education Update report 7b. Q&A	I	Y	Ms Liz Townend, Director of Education	11:50
					12:05
8.	Deanery School	I		The Rt Revd Neil Warwick, Bishop of Swindon	12:15
9.	Question Time	D&A		The Revd Trudie Wigley, Chair of the House of Clergy	12:20
10.	Finance 10a. Finance Update report 10b. Q&A	I	Y	Richard Bacon, Chair of the DBF and Stephen Sheridan, Director of Finance	12:30
					12:40
11.	Diocesan Synod Elections	I	Y	Bruce Finnamore, Chair of the	12:45

Topic		Papers	Led by	Time
			House of Laity	
12.	Blessing and Close		The Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol	13:00

Proposed motions for debate

- 4: John Sunderland (Bishop's Council Member) to move:
a) that this report be received.

Upcoming Synods:

15 June 2024 - St Michaels Centre, The Green, Bristol BS34 8PD

23 November 2024 - Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon, SN5 7JL

Diocesan Synod legend

Purpose: to outline the functions of Synod (with abbreviations), and for those abbreviations to be used against each agenda item.

Function	
Article 8 decisions passed down by General Synod, or fulfilling Synod's statutory legal obligations	LO
Decisions on expenditure	DOE
Discussion, and advice to the Bishop	D&A
Information to enable Diocesan Synod members to be advocates in a particular area of Diocesan business	I