



8. Written Questions

Please see below two written questions that were received prior to the Diocesan Synod papers being circulated.

Questions may be submitted in writing to the Secretary seven days in advance of the meeting and written answers will be provided and spoken to. If you wish to submit a written question, please email synod@bristoldiocese.org

Two questions from the Revd David Stephenson (City Deanery):

1. **“Three years ago this Synod unanimously agreed to adopt a motion making the declaration of Climate Emergency. We were one of the first Dioceses to make this declaration and it paved the way for General Synod’s declaration and our reps were a significant voice in GS’ commitment to achieving net-zero by 2030. Having proposed the original motion three years on I want to ask to what extent we are acting as if we are in an emergency?”**

We recognise this is an emergency but, as in any crisis, we must plan and allocate resources in a deliberate and sustainable manner, to ensure we successfully overcome it. We have now appointed a lead for DBF (Lindsey McCullam) to take on the CNZ2030 challenge - *across our parishes, schools parsonage houses and Diocesan activity* - and she is currently assembling her team and determining the best way to allocate resources. We have also worked hard to both bid for National Church funding, and to gain DBF approval in principle to release funds from our own reserves. Bristol is so far ahead of other Dioceses that we have been chosen as the CNZ2030 'pathfinder' for the CofE as a whole. We are now aligning our Diocesan route map with the recently released National Church route map (*where it makes sense to do so*) and we are on a steep dive now into energy utilisation assessment, decarbonisation plans and the focussed and planned roll out of infrastructure greening. We will also undertake activities to enable data collection for benchmarking and infrastructure changes, and to ensure we are able to drive training and behavioural change within our parishes, schools parsonage houses and wider Diocesan activity. We continue to support and engage parishes with EcoChurch and Creation Care, providing a more holistic approach to the Climate and the Environment, and to provide opportunities for the Church and staff communities to attend talks and conferences with expert speaker contribution. There are already churches trialling different approaches in the Diocese; many of them scoping infrared and heat pump technologies,

and vicarages that have PV. There are several others who are set to pilot new emerging technologies. We have had a short hiatus in communicating these activities (and agenda) whilst we responded to some persistent staffing challenges in the Communications Directorate, but this is intended to resume shortly with some good news stories, and to provide guidance on how Parishes might wish to make a start on their own journeys. We expect to be able to present a fully costed plan to achieve CNX2030 at the March 2023 Synod.

2. **"To what extent is the situation we are facing informing and shaping our theological perspectives, our discipleship formation, our missional priorities and commitments, our prayer and our worship, as well as our behaviours as individuals and our vocation as communities?"**

This is a very valid question and one which we must address in the coming months. Undoubtedly CNZ2030 is a fundamental part of TCT, and we must integrate the inevitable technical work with the 'hearts and minds' work we have already planned and undertaken, *and* the reality that this is all being done in the context of God's mission. We would welcome the involvement of Synod members (including the questioner) in discerning how we can achieve this integration, and a more holistic approach to getting to Net Zero by 2030.