



## Introductory note for the Diocesan Synod, 23 November 2024

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### To: Diocesan Synod members

Please find enclosed the agenda and papers for Diocesan Synod on 23 November at Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon, SN5 7JL.

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 four parts:

1. **Safeguarding:** Following the independent report about John Smyth's prolific abuse of children and the failure of senior Church of England Clergy and Officers to take appropriate action to protect the vulnerable and bring Mr Smyth to justice, the Diocesan Synod agenda for Saturday, 23 November 2024, has been amended to allow all Diocesan Synod time to discuss these events and express thoughts, feelings, and concerns. If you have any concerns about this addition to the agenda, please do not hesitate to contact Emma Bakewell ([emma.bakewell@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:emma.bakewell@bristoldiocese.org)). The Revd Dr Simon Taylor (Director of Mission and Ministry) and Mrs Geralyn Meehan (Director of People and Safeguarding) will also be present Diocesan Synod and available should anyone wish talk with someone privately or have someone to pray with.
2. **Routine Business:** This includes reports from recent meetings of Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, DMPC, plus an update from the Priority Communities Network.
3. **Finance:** This includes the proposed 2025 budget and a presentation on encouraging giving.
4. **Separate meetings of the House of Clergy and the House of Laity:** As it is a new Diocesan Synod, the Chairs will lead separate meetings so that the individual houses can get to know each other better.

### 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, 15 November.** This gives us time to direct your question to the most appropriate person and send you an answer prior to the meeting.

#### **Minutes from 15 June and 9 October 2024**

**If you have any proposed amendments or questions about the minutes, please do fill in the form (link in email) by 9am Friday, 15 November.** The minutes can then be amended ahead of the meeting.

Lunch In considering the environmental impact of this meeting but also wanting to thank members for giving up their time, we are providing catered lunch. A catering company will provide soup and rolls. As lunch is being catered, we do need to confirm numbers 7 days before the event. Please fill in the form (link in email) to advise if you are attending Synod and if you have any dietary requirements by 9am on Friday, 15 November.

If you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact [governance.support@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:governance.support@bristoldiocese.org).



## Agenda, Diocesan Synod

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**Date:** 23 November 2024

**Time:** 9.30am to 3.00pm (coffee from 9.00am)

**Venue:** Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon, SN5 7JL.

Topic		Papers	Led by	Time	
<b>Diocesan Synod</b>					
<i>The Bruce Finnamore (Chair of the House of Laity) in the Chair</i>					
1.	Welcome	I		09:30	
2.	Safeguarding	I	2.1	The Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol	09:33
	2.1 Address from Bishop Viv	D&A			09:40
	2.2 Table discussion	D&A			10:00
2.3 Feedback					
3.	Eucharist		3.1	The Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol	10:20
Coffee				11:00	
4.	Minutes of last meeting, apologies	LO	4.1 4.2	Mr Bruce Finnamore, Chair of the House of Laity	11:20
5.	The appointment of members of Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd	LO		Mr Bruce Finnamore, Chair of the House of Laity	11:25
6.	Bishop's Council & Board of Directors report (11 July and 15 October 2024)	LO	6.1	Mr John Sunderland	11:30

Topic			Papers	Led by	Time
	6.1 Report 6.2 Questions				11:35
7.	General Synod report 7.1 Report 7.2 Questions	I	7.1	Mr Brendan Biggs, General Synod member	11:40
					11:45
<i>The Revd Trudie Wigley (Chair of the House of Clergy) in the Chair</i>					
8.	Bristol DBF Budget 2025 (motion below) 8.1 Presentation of Budget 2024 8.2 Round table discussion. 8.3 Questions 8.4 Vote on the motion	D&A	8.1	Mr Richard Bacon (Presentati on by Mr Stephen Sheridan, Director of Finance)	11:50
		I			
		D&A			12:05
		DOE			12:15
					12:25
9.	Encouraging Giving: Parish Share 9.1 Presentation 9.2 Round table discussion: “How can we, as Synod members, help?”	D&A		The Rt Revd Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol; The Rt Revd Neil Warwick, Bishop of Swindon; Mr Richard Bacon, Chair of Bristol Diocesan Board Finance	12:30
					12:35
Lunch					12:45
10.	Priority Communities Update 10.1 Update presentation	I		The Revd Dr Andy Murray,	13:25

Topic			Papers	Led by	Time
	10.2 Questions			Dean of Priority Communities	13:35
11.	Question Time	D&A		The Revd Trudie Wigley, Chair of the House of Clergy	13:40
12.	Individual meetings of the House of Laity and House of Clergy			Mr Bruce Finnamore, Chair of the House of Laity; and, The Revd Trudie Wigley, Chair of the House of Clergy	13:55
13.	Blessing and Close			The Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, Bishop of Bristol	15:00

### Proposed motions for debate

6: Mr John Sunderland (Bishop's Council member) to move:

a) that this report be received.

8: Mr Richard Bacon (Chair of Diocesan Board of Finance) to move: That this Synod authorizes the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in the year 2025 sums totaling £16,626,000 (including project costs) in respect of the items in the budget for that year.

### Upcoming Synods:

Saturday 22 March 2025 (09:30 – 15:00) – Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon, SN5 7JL.

Saturday 14 June 2025 (09:30 – 13:00) – Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon, SN5 7JL.

Saturday 15 November 2025 (09:30 – 15:00) – St Michael's Centre, North Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8PD.

### Diocesan Synod legend

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

<b>Function</b>	
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