



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL
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DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

REPORT TITLE	Diocesan Synod Meeting Summary
DATE	22 March 2025
TIME	9.30am to 1.00pm

Diocesan Synod had four main parts:

- 1. Routine Business:** This included reports from recent meetings of Standing Committee (Bishop's Council, Board of Directors, DMPC) and General Synod.
- 2. Living in Love and Faith (LLF):** Bishop Viv reported on developments with regards to LLF following the February 2025 meeting of General Synod. Time was also given for facilitated conversations so that Diocesan Synod members might discuss and feedback on the following questions:
 - What discussions or decisions around Prayers of Love and Faith have your PCC and your Deanery Synod arranged? What was the impact?
 - What information would enable further good discussion at PCC or Deanery Synod meetings?

An additional Diocesan Synod meeting is being arranged for September so that LLF might be further discussed and a summary of the discussion will be sent to National Church so the views of the Diocese of Bristol can feed into the ongoing work on Prayers of Love and Faith.

3. Updates: This section focused on updates on the Diocese of Bristol's target of meeting Carbon Net Zero by 2030, and an update on the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust (DBAT).

The Net Zero update

The Environment Team continues to actively support parishes by offering expert guidance and practical assistance. A Parish Environmental Officer has been appointed to help parishes manage environmental paperwork and navigate funding applications. Looking ahead, the team plans to enhance regional collaboration through local report surgeries and shared learning opportunities. These initiatives aim to ease capacity pressures and help reduce volunteer burnout across the diocese.

DBAT update


It was confirmed that the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust (DBAT) has now been formally dissolved. All schools previously under DBAT have been successfully transferred to new Multi-Academy Trusts, selected for their ethos, capacity, and proven track record in school improvement:

- Two Swindon schools transferred to *The Park Academies Trust* – effective 1st September 2024

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- Ten Wiltshire and Swindon primary schools transferred to *Blue Kite Academy Trust* – effective 1st January 2025
- Three Bristol schools transferred to *Lighthouse Schools Partnership* – effective 1st January 2025

The Education Team remains committed to fostering strong relationships with all schools and will continue to support them in maintaining and developing their Christian distinctiveness. This will be delivered through the Diocese of Bristol School Partnership Programme (DBSP), which is scheduled to launch in September 2025

4. Good News Stories and Youth Voice: the closing section of Diocesan Synod highlighted good news stories from the parishes, including the recent take up of [Sharesy](#) (online venue booking platform) at Holy Trinity (Horfield) as well as Echo.

Echo is designed to allow the young people of our Diocese space to express their faith, ideas and hopes for the church and the wider world and in turn, see their influence ripple through their Church communities.

[A copy of all the meeting papers can be found here.](#)

ATTENDANCE: Despite significant travel disruptions, closure of M4 in both directions between junctions 18 (Bath) and 19 (M32), as well rail replacement bus services between Bristol and Swindon, 87 of 114 Diocesan Synod members attended the meeting to vote and discuss a packed agenda.

72 attended in person

15 attended via zoom

87 of Diocesan Synod members attended

BISHOP'S ADDRESS: [a copy of the Bishop's address can be found here.](#)

VOTES:

1. The Bishop's Council report was received.

ACTIONS: The following actions were agreed at Diocesan Synod:

- Diocesan resources on Living in Love and Faith (LLF) to be updated and circulated to parishes to aid with discussions.
- Bishops Viv emphasised the need to revisit the general LLF discussion as well as the national church questions. This will be picked up at Bishop's Council and Bishop's Staff meetings, with a more substantive discussion expected at Synod in September.