

DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER

Diocesan Synod Guide 2021

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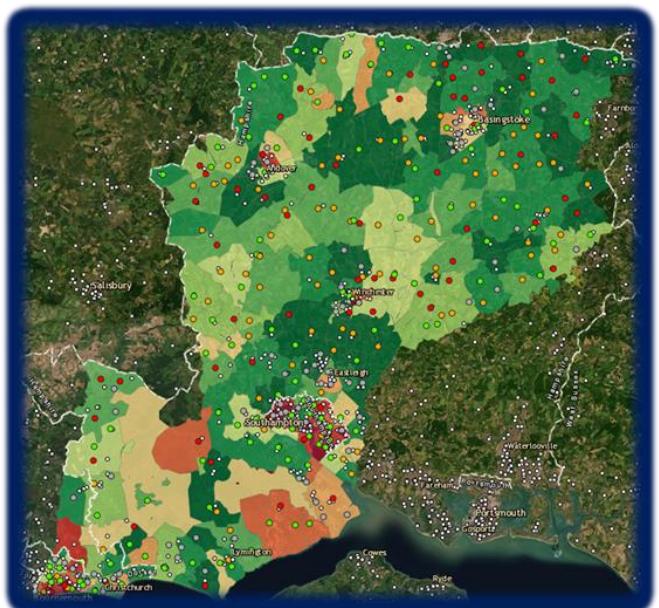
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Introduction

This booklet has been produced as a quick reference guide to the work and processes of the Winchester Diocesan Synod. It is hoped that it will help clarify how the Synod operates, the powers and responsibilities of members, and how meetings are conducted.

Synod members are asked to submit comments or suggestions on this guide to the Director of Operations.

Colin Harbidge
Director of Operations
colin.harbidge@winchester.anglican.org



October 2021

Role and Purpose of Synod

Diocesan Synod is the primary governing body of the Diocese. It currently has a maximum membership of around 160 representatives. Diocesan Synod is split into three Houses - Bishops, Clergy and Laity.

The function of the Diocesan Synod is set out in the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

- (a) to consider matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to their diocese, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest;
- (b) to advise the bishop on any matters on which he may consult the synod;
- (c) to consider and express their opinion on any matters referred to them by the General Synod, and in particular to approve or disapprove provisions referred to them by the General Synod under Article 8 of the Constitution;
- (d) to consider proposals for the annual budget for the diocese and to approve or disapprove them;
- (e) to consider the annual accounts of the diocesan board of finance of the diocese;

It is also a requirement of a number of Church of England Measures for Diocesan Synod to be consulted, or even offer their consent, for a variety of matters that arise from time to time.

Whilst this remit is both wide ranging and critical, it is also important to note that these roles are of a strategic or 'big picture' nature. More detailed policy level or operational decisions fall under the responsibility of the Bishop's Council & Standing Committee, the Diocesan Bishop, and other Diocesan committees. For more details of the wider diocesan Governance structure, please see the **Governance & Structures Handbook 2021**.

Synodical Who's Who

President

Acting Diocesan Bishop

Rt Revd Debbie Sellin

(Bishop of Southampton)

Bishop.debbie@winchester.anglican.org

Secretary

The Chief Executive

Vacant

Chair of the House of Laity

To be elected

Chair of the House of Clergy

To be elected

Diocesan Registrar

Sue de Candole

registry@battbroadbent.co.uk

Assistant Secretary

Director of Operations

Colin Harbridge

colin.harbridge@winchester.anglican.org

Support, logistics and Minute Secretary

Operations Manager

Cathy Laird

Cathy.laird@winchester.anglican.org

Procedures at Synod Meetings

Meetings of Diocesan Synod are governed by our **Standing Orders**, copies of which are provided to all new members in advance of the first meeting and can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website: <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/diocesan-synod-and-committees/>

Diocesan Synod tends to meet three times a year, usually on weekday evenings (although meeting patterns are currently under review). We aim to start most meetings with a light supper to give time for members to get to know one another, before moving into a short period of worship.

The **agenda and business** of our meetings are planned on behalf of the Synod by the Business Committee. As well as items that flow from General Synod or Bishop's Council, business can also come from the following sources:

1. A Motion from Deanery Synod

Under Standing Order 103 all Deanery Synods are able to pass motions to Diocesan Synod for debate and vote. The Diocesan Team or Diocesan Registrar are always happy to support deaneries with preparing the wording of any such motion to ensure it has the desired effect.

2. Private Members Motion

Standing Order 24a allows any member to put forward a motion for debate provided it has the backing of at least 20 other members and is submitted 35 days in advance of any meeting.

3. Members' Questions

Any member is entitled to submit a formal question (as long as it is in line with the requirements of Standing Orders 72 and 73) and written answers will be provided. Whilst this process does not allow for debate and discussion, it is a mechanism for raising queries or issues members wish to highlight.

4. Contact the Business Committee:

Whilst not a formal mechanism, any member is also able to write to the Business Committee suggesting items for a future agenda. Please send these to the Secretary of the Business Committee colin.harbridge@winchester.anglican.org

The Diocesan team is responsible for circulating the agenda supporting papers 2 weeks before the meeting.

The Standing Orders set out the rules for debate when discussing a formal motion, but the Chairs will always endeavour to remind members of these when necessary.

Most of the time we choose to operate our meetings in a more informal manner as we find this leads to more positive and productive discussions and discourse. We do however ask members to observe the following broad guidelines at meetings:

- a. All members should give their name and deanery before they speak.

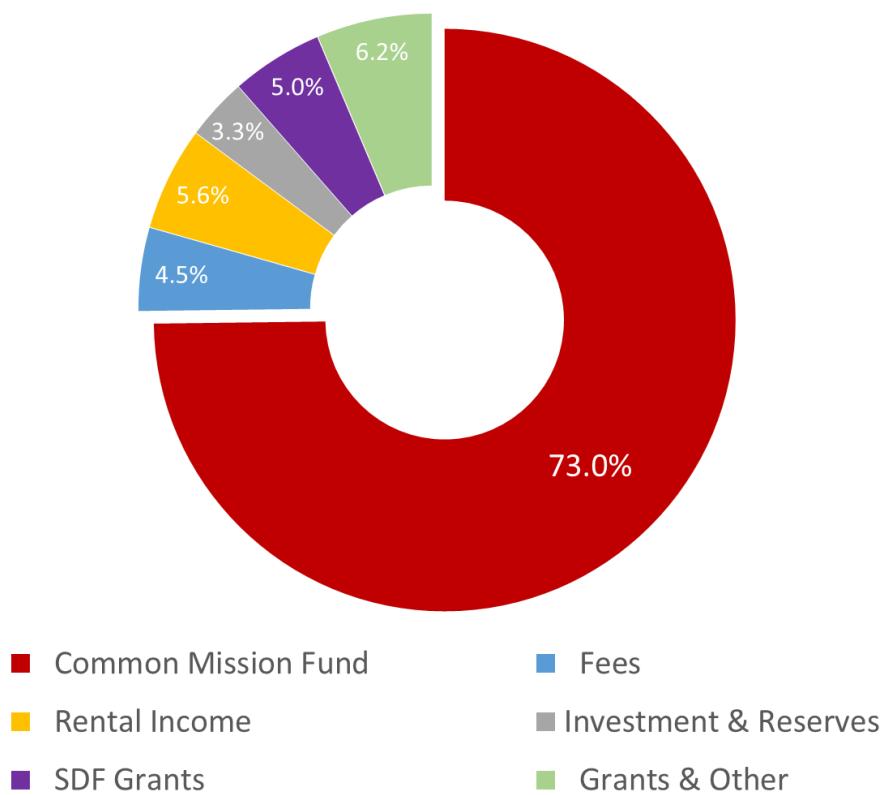
- b. To enable as many people as possible to be heard, we ask members to limit speeches to 3 minutes.
 - c. If members have very detailed or technical questions, we ask that they submit them in advance to the Diocesan Team.
 - d. If any member or Deanery Synod wishes to raise a formal question or motion, we ask that you contact the Diocesan Team in advance who can offer guidance and advice to ensure it is in line with technical requirements of the Standing Orders.
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Overview of Diocesan Finances

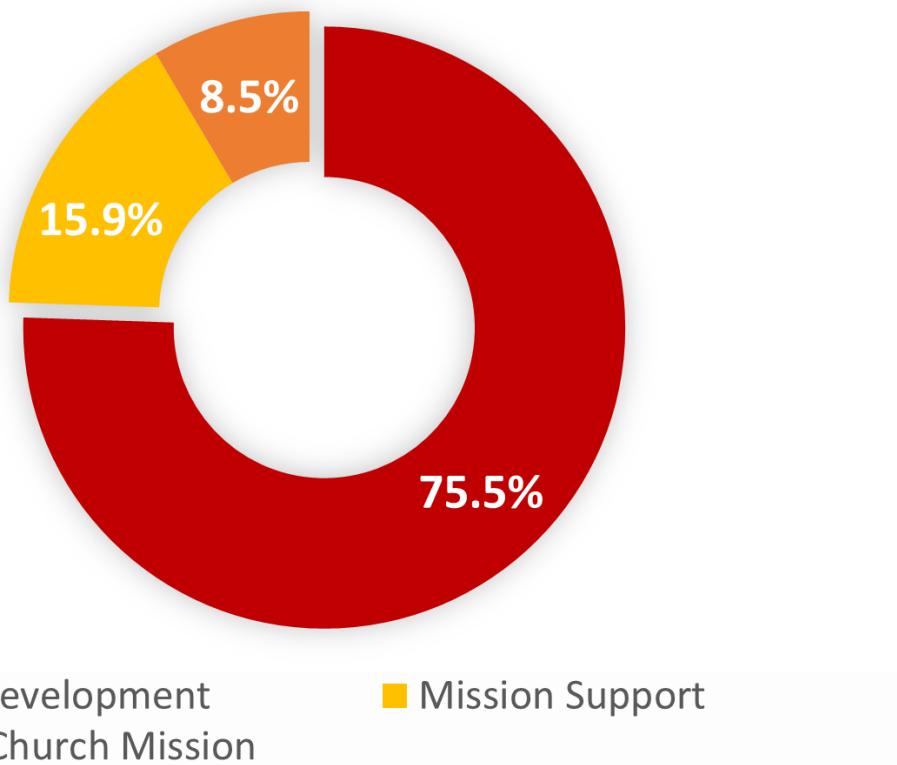
The Diocesan Synod is required to consider proposals for the Diocesan Budget. In 2012 the Diocesan synod approved proposals to move to 3-year financial plan model for budgeting purposes.

The charts below offer a broad overview of Diocesan Income and expenditure in a normal year.

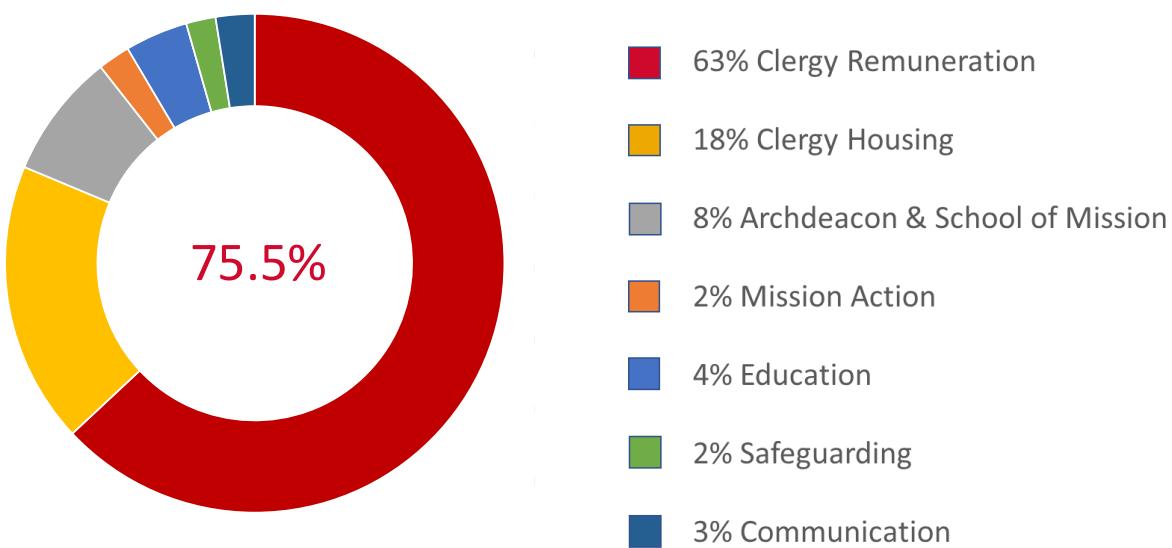
Where does the money come from?



Where does the money go?

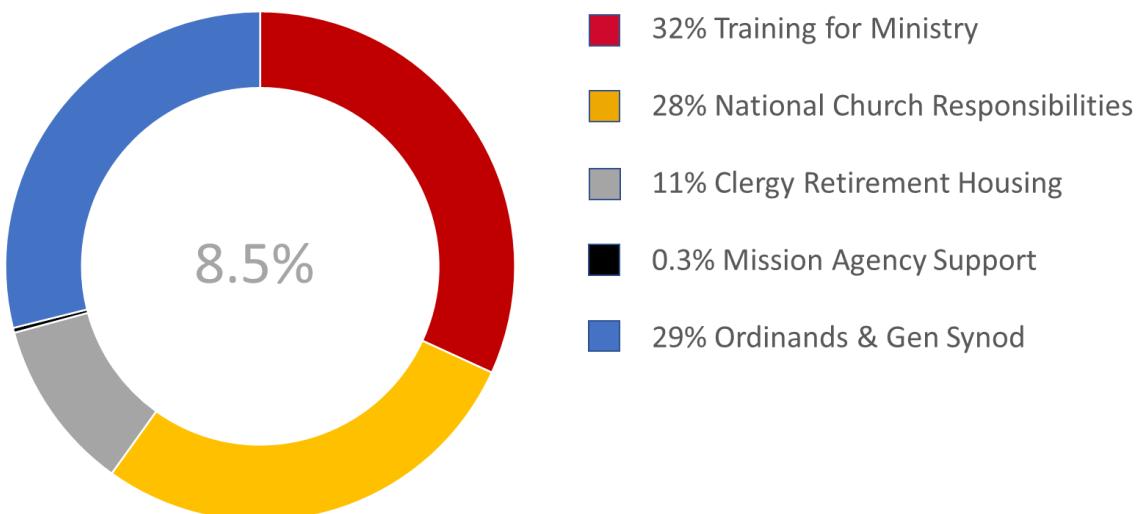


Mission Development

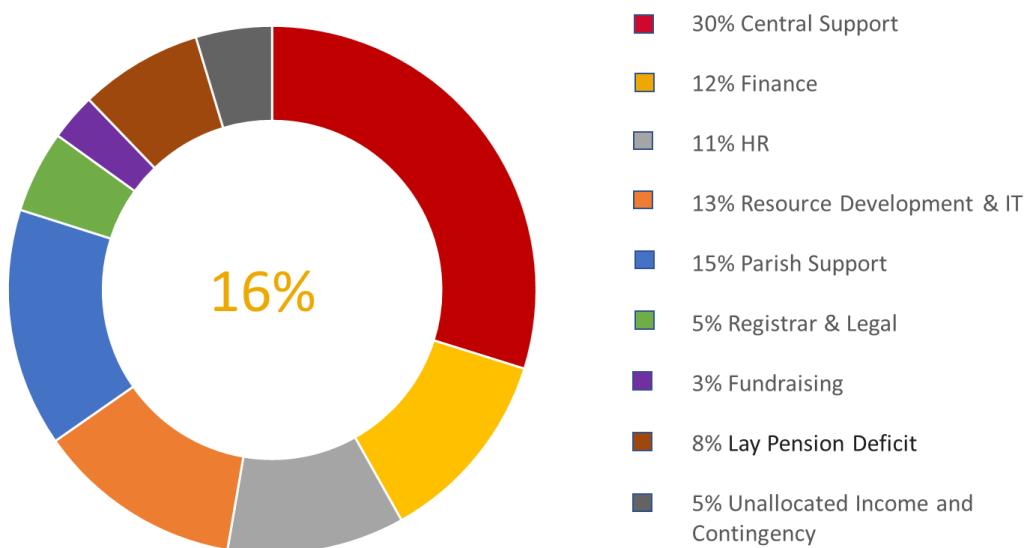


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National Church's Mission



Mission Support



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