

DIOCESAN SYNOD DIGEST

16 MARCH 2023

This digest is produced to support the communication of information between Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synod and PCCs. Should you have any questions please contact Cathy Laird 01962 737307 or email cathy.laird@winchester.anglican.org.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Recruitment of DBE Trustees

Previously, the DBE existed as an unincorporated association. To be compliant with the legislative revision of the Diocesan Board of Education Measure in 2021 the decision was taken to transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The board received legal advice on this change which was also brought before both diocesan Bishop's Councils. Both Diocesan Synods voted to approve the proposals and the Portsmouth & Winchester Diocesan Board of Education (PWDBE) became a CIO on the 1st of January 2023. The Dioceses have oversight of 141 schools and academies, and have six Universities in our region, one of which, Winchester University, has an Anglican Foundation.

The CIO requires three elected trustees (appointed by the CIO) from each Diocesan Synod (Portsmouth and Winchester). These must comprise two clergy and one lay person, and one person being a member of the relevant Diocesan Synod. Potential trustees may or may not be practising Anglicans in the diocese.

Skills and experience sought for DBE trustees:

Board members will have a passion for education and be enthusiastic in promoting the Church of England's vision for education to serve all the children of the Dioceses of Portsmouth and Winchester. An effective board will comprise a range of different experiences and skills; it is not expected that members will satisfy all of the criteria set out below but will have significant experience in one or more of the following contexts:

Education	Charity Management
Financial Strategy, Reporting and Compliance	Legal services
Communication and Reporting Strategy	Governance
Human Resources	Safeguarding
Education Policy	Academisation
Local Authority Education	Land and Buildings
CofE Leadership	Operation of a Diocese

Application forms were circulated as paper DS23/01. Those who are interested in standing are encouraged to contact Sam Powell for further information (sam.powell@winchester.anglican.org / 023 9289 9680).

Rwanda

The group provided a report on the joint visits in Aug 2022 and Feb 2023 from Alresford Deanery, Lyndhurst Deanery, Winchester School of Mission and the Education Team.

Further stories and photos from the visit can be found here.

<https://winchester.anglican.org/rwanda-2023/>

Those who wish to engage further with partner links are encouraged to contact Winchester School of Mission.

Winchester Deanery Synod Motion

Ruth Guy (Lay Chair Winchester) and Ed Dines (Area Dean of Winchester) spoke to the motions. Members discussed the focus of the motion looking specifically at churchwardens, as the Bishop's officers, supporting their incumbents. Many members were supportive of encouraging discussion at PCC with churchwardens taking specific responsibility. All 3 motions were passed.

*Winchester Deanery Synod calls on the Diocesan Synod to call, in turn, on General Synod to consider amending the regulation for weekly rest periods for office holders in the [Ecclesiastical Offices \(Terms of Service\) Regulations 2009](#) regulation 21 (1) to be amended to say: "An office holder shall be entitled to **not less than 36 hours (a day and a half) of rest in any period of seven days and** to include an uninterrupted rest period of not less than 24 hours in any period of seven days, but the statement of particulars of office issued under regulation 3 above may specify that any rest period may not be taken on or include a Sunday or any or all of the principal Feasts of the Church of England or Ash Wednesday or Good Friday."*

Secondly, the Deanery Synod calls on the Winchester Diocesan Synod to make a motion to encourage the same expectation as above and to ask that all PCCs consider how they can support office holders to be able to achieve this regardless of legislative changes and to be done as soon as practically possible.

Thirdly, the Deanery Synod calls on the Winchester Diocesan Synod to invite the Bishop to make a suitable statement to PCCs and clergy in support of the above proposals regardless of legislative changes and to be done as soon as practically possible.

Guidance for deaneries who wish to submit a motion to diocesan synod can be found below.

<https://winchester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Guide-to-submitting-a-deanery-synod-motion-to-diocesan-synod.pdf>

Budget Consultation Update

The online consultation remains open until 3rd April. 3 consultation meetings will be held on the 27th and 28th of March via zoom and the 29th March at Wolvesey palace. All parishes are strongly encouraged to complete this survey.

The next steps are:

18th April – Finance Monitoring Group reviews responses and prepares outline budget.

27th April – Bishop’s Council Consider responses and review outline budget.

17th & 23rd May – Informal meetings of the Synod Houses review outline budget.

24th May - Finance Monitoring Group review feedback and prepares final budget.

8th June – Bishop’s Council recommends Final Budget

22nd June – Diocesan Synod approves CMF request for 2024

11th September – Diocesan Synod Budget Meeting (via zoom). Approve final budget.

In March 2023 the Bishop’s Council took the decision to increase stipends and salaries for 2023 by 7% (having previously agreed 3% when setting the budget in June 2022). This is in recognition of the cost of living crisis, but more importantly the need to ensure our clergy stipends are at a more consistent level with neighbouring diocese.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

22nd June 2023

11th September 2023 – Via Zoom

22nd November 2023