

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

1st July 2025

Acts of Additional Meeting of Diocesan Synod

held on Zoom

48 members were present

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair of the House of Laity welcomed members and reminded them that the purpose of the meeting was to receive an update from The Diocesan Secretary on the WWW SMMIB and to accept the 2024-2026 CMF request as recommended by the Directors of the WDBF

2 OPENING PRAYER

The Chair of the House of Laity led Synod in opening prayer with Psalm 139.

3 WALKING THE WESSEX WAY

STRATEGIC MISSION & MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE DS25/13

The Diocesan Secretary thanked Synod and their parishes for their input in the consultation and advised that no requested or proposed amendments had been received in advance for the first motion.

He went on to remind members that they were being asked to commend the motion as recommended by Bishop's Council and then moved the motion:

"This Synod, in taking note of Bishop Philip's invitational vision for our diocesan community: 'Walking the Wessex Way,' commends the Diocesan Strategic Mission & Ministry Development Plan, as summarised in paper DS 25/13"

The following comments were received from members:

- Would the benefice programme include existing resource churches?
- The back up support costs were higher than other areas of the proposed costs.
- Clarification on who could bid for which strand
- Flexibility to change course if needed.
- Was the Clergy Wellbeing officer role for existing support or for additional support needed?

The Diocesan Secretary responded as below:

- The benefice programme was not intended to be focussed on resource churches.
- The operational capacity was required to support parishes in delivering the projects and to fulfil the necessary reporting to the national church.
- Rural benefices would apply to the rural strand, Southampton and Bournemouth benefices would apply to their associated strand and all others would apply to the Benefice Development Programme.
- The ability to be flexible was critical, whilst the plans had been developed there had to be an openness to changes and omissions.
- The Clergy Wellbeing Officer role was in addition to the existing support structure available to clergy.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Bishop Philip thanked The Diocesan Secretary and the team for the huge amount of work on the bid and went on to thank Synod for their unanimous support.

4 COMMON MISSION FUND 2026

The Diocesan Secretary reminded members that Synod's approval of the Common Mission Fund figure for the following year was an annual task which ensured figures were circulated to parishes in good time to allow budget planning and support.

He then moved the motion:

"This Synod authorises the Directors of the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance to request a total of £9,093,000 in Common Mission Fund contributions for 2026 inclusive from our parishes to support the costs of mission and ministry of our diocese."

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair of the House of Laity thanked The Diocesan Secretary and his team and Synod for their vote.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 20th November 2025 – Christ Church Chineham
- Wednesday 18th March 2026 6 – 8.30pm
- Wednesday 17th June 2026 6 – 8.30pm
- Thursday 26th November 2026 6 – 8.30pm

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod May 2025

- Acts of Synod June 2025