

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

20th November 2025

Acts of Diocesan Synod

held on 20th November 2025 at Christchurch, Chineham

58 members were present.

1 OPENING WORSHIP

Romsey Deanery led Synod in opening worship

2 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Bishop Philip gave his presidential address to Synod.

Full text of his speech can be found [here](#)

3 FINANCE ITEM DS25/15 & DS25/16

The Chair of the Finance Committee presented an update to Synod of Diocesan finances, explaining that the 2024-2026 had needed to be reviewed due to variances which had, in the main been caused by external forces increasing costs.

Members were asked to work in groups to discuss the revised budget 2026 and offer feedback to the Diocesan Finance Committee relating to the 2027 to 2029 Diocesan Financial Plan. A summary of feedback given can be found [here](#).

The Chair of the House of Laity then proposed the motion:

- a. To take note of the revised budget projections for 2025.
- b. Approve the proposed changes to the 2026 budget, calling on the Directors of the WDBF to enact the changes as specified.
- c. Support the proposed options for addressing the financial challenges in the short-term as set out in Appendix 1.
- d. Renew their call and challenge to all parishes, chaplaincies and worshipping communities to focus on sustainable growth in numbers and spiritual maturity.

The motion was carried with one abstention.

4 CHRISTCHURCH DEANERY SYNOD MOTION DS25/17 a and b

John Adams (Christchurch Deanery) presented the motion.

“Christchurch Deanery Synod calls upon Diocesan Synod to adopt the strategy set out in the paper Crossing the Threshold, a Hereford Diocese Toolkit, and consider the Use of Church Buildings as Community Assets.”

The Chair of the House of Clergy then moved a proposed amendment from Bishop’s Council:

This Synod:

- *“Takes note of the proposal from Christchurch Deanery Synod and their highlighting of the Hereford Diocesan Toolkit, Crossing the Threshold, due to be updated in 2026.*
- *Requests all Deanery Synods to review and collate the current usage and facilities of all church buildings across their deanery, reporting back to Diocesan Synod within 9 months.*
- *Instructs the Diocesan Team, to support Deanery Teams in this work, providing templates and guidance to aid the process, and for collating the final results at a diocesan level.”*

The amendment was carried unanimously.

The Chair of the House of Clergy moved the amended motion which was carried with four abstentions.

5 UPDATE FROM GENERAL SYNOD

Alison Coulter updated members on the meeting of General Synod in February.

6 GOVERNANCE MATTERS DS25/18, DS25/19 & DS25/20

The Chair of the House of Clergy proposed Synod approve and adopt the revised Deanery Standing orders (DS25/18).

The motion was carried with one abstention.

The Bishop of Winchester introduced the schemes of delegation for the Suffragan Bishops (DS25/19 and DS25/20).

The Chair of the House of Clergy asked Synod to approve the schemes.

These were agreed unanimously.

7 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

One question had been received from Keith Watson, Southampton deanery and a written response had been emailed.

Keith asked the following supplementary questions:

1. If there is no change to the way doctrine is handled then why bring the proposal forward(GS Misc 1429)?
2. If it is taken to General Synod would this be organised according to B2 Canon?

The Bishop of Winchester responded by noting that the intention of the paper was to clarify the Anglican position and that he saw no reason to suppose that it would come to General Synod

The Bishop of Southampton closed the meeting in prayer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 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 June 2025