

October 16, 2021 Memorandum to Synod Members:

Here is a hopefully helpful precis of the Anglican Diocese of Leeds Synod meeting held on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at Bradford Cathedral.

Detailed minutes of that meeting will follow in due course, as per normal.

A report of Synod can be found on our website [here](#).

- Opening Eucharist led by the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds.
- Diocesan Secretary Jonathan Wood introduced the new Synod and also welcomed the newly appointed Chair of Clergy, Revd Canon Rachel Firth, Vicar of Huddersfield.
- Jonathan invited everyone to engage in 15 minutes of “small-talk” at this first in-person Synod since the pandemic began. He suggested the topic of “What excites us about being on Synod”.
- Minutes from the June Synod were approved.
- Bishop Nick’s Presidential Address focussed on commitment to our parishes, which he said were not in danger, and the importance of addressing climate change through our strategic plan, Saving Creation. Bishop Nick also praised the tireless work of Rt Revd Paul Slater, Bishop of Kirkstall, and the Ven Anne Dawtry, who were attending their last Synod before retirement. His full address may be read [here](#).
- Debate on the proposed 2022 budget of £21,363,040 was introduced by the Ven Andy Jolley, Archdeacon of Bradford, followed by an explanation of the current and predicted financial situations by diocesan Chief Finance Officer Geoff Park. He stressed the increasing significance of parish share at a time of inflationary costs.
- Graham Foster (Halifax Deanery) said parish share was the biggest variable and that deanery synods and parishes needed to play a bigger part in getting that message across.
- Mike Moss (Aire and Worth Deanery) said how prayer was also of great importance and that he was concerned about future economic impacts on the welfare of clergy.
- The question of how parish share is calculated was raised with the suggestion that this might be reviewed.
- Angus Maude (Wensley Deanery) said it could not be skirted around that if share was not gathered in, “there will be a reduction in clergy”.
- Deidre White (Wakefield Deanery) said how parish magazines were a valuable way of getting the message out regarding the importance of parish share.
- The motion to approve the 2022 budget was passed.
- The Rt Revd Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley proposed a motion to ratify the appointment of three Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance nominee trustees: Mrs Marilyn Bannister, Mrs Jane Evans and Irving Warnett. The motion was passed.
- A question to Synod came from Graham Foster (Wakefield Deanery) regarding former Diocese of Wakefield Registrar Linda Box and asking what current arrangements regarding sources of legal advice obtained by the Diocese of Leeds are. This was answered by the Diocesan Registrar Peter Foskett and Diocesan Secretary Jonathan Wood and their detailed responses will be contained in the Synod minutes.

- The diocese's carbon net zero plan was presented to Synod, introduced by Bishop Paul Slater, and shown by Jemima Parker, Diocesan Environment Officer, and Jack Bacon, Diocesan Communications Officer. The presentation included a video introduction, an interview with Prof Piers Forster, Professor of Climate Change at the University of Leeds, a look at our churches toolkit and a plenary. A full report on this can be found [here](#).
- Jonathan briefly talked through the results of a recent survey looking at how the diocesan strategy is being implemented across the diocese.
- Synod closed with a blessing from Bishop Nick.