



## Synod Questions

### Synod venues

Mark Charmley- Guernsey

As “Climate Action” is one of the 5 areas of “Making Jesus Known” has any thought been put into the location of Diocesan Synod meetings from the perspective of the accessibility of travelling by public transport from all parts of the Diocese? (excepting the Channel Islands – as a Guernsey Representative I appreciate it will always be a challenge and our transport logistics shouldn’t be factored in to what works for everyone else)

**Response:** David Pain

### Safeguarding

The Rev'd Gerry Lynch - Devizes Deanery

Why are there no leadership level Safeguarding courses taking place on evenings or weekends in coming months for LLMs and clergy who work full-time in secular employment?

**Response:** Suzy Fatcher, Head of Safeguarding

### Safeguarding

Oliver Iliffe- Marlborough Deanery

I understand that all PCC members in the diocese will soon be asked to complete DBS checks. Is this a legal requirement (if so, please cite the source) or will this be at the initiative of the Diocesan Board of Finance?

**Response:** Suzy Fatcher, Head of Safeguarding

**Synod meetings-** Cedric Pierce, DBF Vice Chair, Bradford Deanery

Our Diocesan Synod generally opens with a Presidential Address from the Bishop and this time last year we received an address from +Stephen focussing on the three themes of lamentation, waiting and resurrection. He commended to us Paul Bradbury’s then recent book “In the Fullness of Time”.

I wonder how Synod is supposed to respond to a Presidential Address, and to what extent it informs our

subsequent decisions and actions? In my limited experience, Synod hears what the Bishop has to say and then moves on, and I wonder if this is how it is meant to be? A place of lamentation and waiting seems to be where many of the people in our Diocese are at present.

**Response:**

Sue de Candole and Bishop Stephen

**Finance**

Oliver Iliffe- Marlborough Deanery

In order to assist a better understanding of mandatory and discretionary expenditure, the impact of grant funding, comparisons between budgeted and actual figures and like-for-like comparisons over time, please would the Diocesan Board of Finance (“DBF”) annex to or otherwise accompany its budget and accounts presented to diocesan synod each year, an unaudited computation showing projected (in the case of the budget) and actual (in the case of the accounts) cash amounts for the following categories:

1. Under “Receipts”:

- (a) Parish Share (including all donations received from parochial church councils, “PCCs”)
- (b) Receipts from National Church Institutions, including the Church Commissioners and the Archbishops’ Council, identifying the institution and corresponding amount.
- (c) Other donations (identifying any single item over £100,000)
- (d) Income from residential property
- (e) Income from other property (including glebe)
- (f) Other investment income
- (g) Capital receipts from residential property
- (h) Capital receipts from other property (including glebe)
- (i) Statutory fees
- (j) Other receipts (identifying any single item over £50,000)

Separately identifying under 1(a) to (j) above, the total amount of receipts to which any enforceable restriction applies (e.g. under contract or trust law) other than the statutory charitable purposes of the DBF.

2. Under “Expenditure”:

- (a) Direct ministry costs, with separate categories for:
  - (i) Stipends of parish clergy
  - (ii) Pension contributions in respect of stipendiary parish clergy

- (iii) Accommodation costs on housing occupied by stipendiary parish clergy<sup>1</sup>
- (iv) Other expenses or allowances paid directly to stipendiary parish clergy
- (b) Expenditure on mandatory functions (defined as those functions which are required by law to be discharged by the DBF) and other mandatory expenses, with separate categories for:
  - (i) Chancellor's office, under the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 ("EJCCM 2018"), s.1.
  - (ii) Registrar (EJCCM 2018, s.30).
  - (iii) The Diocesan Board of Education (Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021, s.3 and Sch 1).
  - (iv) Administration of the Diocesan Advisory Committee(s), under EJCCM 2018, ss.37 and 60.
  - (v) Diocesan safeguarding officer and other safeguarding requirements under Regulations made under Canon C30.
  - (vi) Other specific functions or expenses (identifying any single item over £50,000)<sup>2</sup>.
  - (vii) Overhead administration costs of the DBF, including management, finance, legal and technical support.
  - (viii) Expenses relating to investments which arise under a legal obligation.
- (c) Discretionary expenditure (defined as expenditure within the statutory charitable purposes of the DBF which is not applied in respect of another defined statutory function at paragraph 2(b) above), with separate categories for:
  - (i) Services provided to bishops.
  - (ii) Services provided to incumbents, priests-in-charge, "house for duty" parish clergy and curates.
  - (iii) Services provided to other non-stipendiary ministers and other volunteers.
  - (iv) Services provided to PCCs.
  - (v) Training costs for those entering ministry or moving from one vocational role to another (including Sarum college).
  - (vi) Donations to National Church Institutions.
  - (vii) Donations to the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan.
  - (viii) Communications (including Grapevine).

---

<sup>1</sup> Or on vacant accommodation which is intended to be re-occupied by curates or clergy within one year.

<sup>2</sup> Including, for example, administration of the Diocesan Parsonages Board (Repair of Benefice Buildings Measure 1972, s.1), the Mission and Pastoral Committee (Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, ss.3 and 55), the Diocesan Board of Patronage (Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986, s.26), diocesan trusts (Diocesan Boards of Finance Measure 1925, s.4).

- (ix) Expenses relating to investments which are discretionary.
- (x) Other donations (identifying any single item over £50,000).
- (xi) Other discretionary expenditure, including investments (identifying any single item over £50,000).

Separately identifying:

- (A) under paragraph 2, the amount met by grants restricted by their terms to that particular category;  
and
  - (B) in respect of paragraph 2(c)(i) to (iv) above, where possible, a breakdown by cost of the services provided (especially where these are substantial) or, where insubstantial or impractical, a list of services provided in order of significance;
- and, under paragraphs 2(b) and (c), to the extent that personnel time is split between different categories, the costs of the relevant personnel being apportioned between the relevant categories in estimated proportion to the time regularly expended on them.

## **Response**

Jane McCormick-DBF Chair