

OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD
Saturday 8 March 2025 at 9.15am – 2pm including lunch
Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7HN

AGENDA

Please see the notes at the end of the agenda for further information about the meeting

Item No.	Time	Item	Mins
1.	09.15	Welcome and Opening Worship	20
2.	09.35	Notices	10
		Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 16 November 2024 (attached)	
		Questions under SO70 A written response will be available to any questions received.	
3.	09.45	Welcome to the Bishops of Buckingham and Reading The new Area Bishops will be invited to address the Synod	20
4.	10.05	Presidential Address The Rt. Revd. Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford	25
5.	10.30	General Synod report Mrs Julie Dziegiel will report back on the General Synod February group of sessions	5
6.	10.35	Safeguarding: presentation and group discussion Paper ODS 25.1 There will be a presentation by Mr Peter Hay CBE, Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Panel and Dr Louise Whitehead, Head of Safeguarding, followed by a table discussion.	35
7.	11.10	Coffee Break	25
8.	11.35	Safeguarding: plenary discussion There will be an opportunity to offer comments, to which a panel of Bishop Steven, Bishop Gavin, Peter Hay and Louise Whitehead will respond where appropriate.	25

9. **12.00 Children and young people: update on strategy and national bid** 25
Paper ODS 25.2
The Director of Mission and Ministry and the Diocesan Secretary will speak to the paper and there will be an opportunity for questions.
10. **12.25 Finance: year-end outturn and report back on amendment passed in November 2024** 25
Paper ODS 25.3
Sir Hector Sants, Chair of the Board of Finance, will give a verbal update on the financial outturn for the year ended 31st December 2024 and will present Bishop’s Council’s response to the amendment relating to clergy stipends passed by the Synod at its November meeting. There will be an opportunity for questions to Sir Hector.
- 12.50 Reflection** (Millius Palayiwa) 5
Closing Blessing (Bishop Steven)
- 13.00 Lunch**

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Diocesan Synod will take place on **Saturday 14 June 2025 (provisional timing 0915-1400 including lunch)**. It will be held **in person** at Holy Trinity Church, Amersham Road, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, HP15 7PZ.

The final meeting of the year will be held on zoom on Saturday 15 November 2025

2026 meetings will be held as follows:

7 March 2026 (venue tbc)

13 June 2026 (zoom)

14 November 2026 (zoom)

NOTES:	
1.	Any apologies for absence should be sent by email in advance of the meeting to the Diocesan Secretary via the Clerk of the Synod: synodclerk@oxford.anglican.org
2.	<p><u>Joining Instructions</u></p> <p>The Synod will be held in person at Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7HN on Saturday 8 March 2025.</p> <p>Please arrive from 8.30am for a 9.15 start. The Synod will finish at approx. 1pm, followed by lunch. Refreshments will be provided.</p> <p><u>Travel to Didcot Civic Hall</u></p> <p>In line with Diocesan environmental principles, attendees are requested to please consider all available options for travel:</p>

	<p>By public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didcot Civic Hall is located a short walk from Didcot Parkway station, with regular train services from Oxford and Reading. • Buses serve Didcot from locations including Abingdon, Newbury, Oxford and Wantage. Further information is available via this link. Most bus fares are capped at £3 per journey. <p>By car</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking is available at the Civic Hall. <p>A map of the area is available here</p> <p><u>Food and Dietary Requirements</u></p> <p>So that we can confirm arrangements with our caterers, please email us at synodclerk@oxford.anglican.org by Wednesday 26 February 2025 to let us know whether you will be attending and any dietary requirements. Thank you.</p>
3.	<p><u>Meeting Procedures</u></p> <p>The attention of members is drawn to the fact that under the Synod’s Standing Orders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the period of notice for new business has expired, save for urgent or other especially important business included by direction of the President b) notice of motions arising out of the business on the agenda and of amendments to motions must be received by the Secretary of the Synod (the Diocesan Secretary) by Friday 28 February 2025. c) notice of questions under Standing Order 70 must be received by the Secretary of the Synod by Friday 28 February 2025. <p>Email: diosec@oxford.anglican.org copied to synodclerk@oxford.anglican.org. Please ensure any amendments raised or questions have been acknowledged as received safely</p>
4.	<p>Being mindful that this is a formal gathering of the Synod and Standing Orders apply, when wishing to speak, members are asked to raise their hand. Please give your name and number if known, or Deanery or relevant position. The Chair will invite members to speak in order and determine length of speech.</p> <p>Only Synod members are permitted to speak except by permission of the Chair. Members are asked to keep contributions brief to maximise the number of people who can speak.</p>