

Archbishop's Council and Standing Committee of Diocesan Synod
29 April 2025 6:30pm St Paul's Parish Centre, Church Street CT1 1NH
Draft Minutes of the Meeting



Present	Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Chair)	Bishop of Dover
	Ven Darren Miller	Archdeacon of Ashford
	Ven Dr Will Adam	Archdeacon of Canterbury
	Tony Richter	Chair of the Board of Finance
	Dr John Moss	Chair of the Board of Education
	Revd Canon Estella Last	Chair of the House of Clergy
	Canon Miranda Ford	Chair of the House of Laity
	Sandra Ellis	Co-Chair of the CYP Framework
	Revd Dr Andy Bawtree	Ashford Archdeaconry
	Revd Gareth Dickinson	Maidstone Archdeaconry
	Revd Simon Tillotson	(Canterbury Archdeaconry)
	Canon Amanda Boucherat	Co-Chair, Mission and Ministry Framework
	Graham Codling	Lay Chair, Weald Deanery
In Attendance	Iain Blythe	Diocesan Secretary
	Revd Richard Braddy	Chaplain to the Bishop of Dover
	Natalia Olszewska	Director of Finance
	Quentin Roper	Director of Education
	Jonathan Arnold	Executive Director, The Social Justice Network
	Neville Emslie	Director of Mission and Ministry
	Orla Garratt	Director of Communications
	Jo Manser	EA to the Diocesan Secretary

1. The Bishop opened the meeting with reflection and a prayer.

2. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Very Revd David Monteith, Neil Logan-Green, Colin Evans

3. Finance

TR reported that Finance & Assets Away Day would take place on Wednesday 14 May with Diocesan Synod members invited to be involved in budget discussions for Ministry, Property, Education, IT, The Social Justice Network and General Administration.

NO provided an update on the recent audit. Preparation for the 2026 Audit were underway.

TR reported that we are making a loss of £1million due to reduced Parish Share payments, at this point last year we had received £7.2million in parish share payments, this year we have only received £7.1million. Rental income is up from this time last year, £975k compared to £797k.

A discussion took place and it was noted that there was an unhappiness with the increase this year and that many parishes were struggling to meet their Parish Share payments.

4. Safeguarding

FC has created a “Hints & Tips” process for the Safeguarding Audit. The Archbishop’s Council will need to look at the national safeguarding standards, not just headlines, the matrix indicators and make sure we are familiar with the questions. These documents will be uploaded to Teams. FC explained that the closer the Cathedral and the Diocese can be aligned in the audit process the better, although both will have to organise and gather evidence separately. FC is working closely with the Rochester DSO.

Staff and parishes are onboard with the audit. FC will provide a crib sheet for good practice and recommended that the Archbishop’s Council members read the annual report and also read similar dioceses annual reports.

JM requested that there is some clear communication specifically around the standards as he doesn't feel engagement with the standards has got through to some parishes yet. FC noted this point and will ensure this is included in the Safeguarding Newsletter and communications.

5. The Social Justice Network

JA referred to the reports submitted prior to the meeting.

JA added that following their attendance at Diocesan Synod, SJN had an influx of general interest, they want to partnership and create projects elsewhere, they would also like to replicate the Break the Cycle project in Folkestone.

SJN met with PB and FC to ensure SJN aligns with national safeguarding standards and are going to create a SJN safeguarding handbook.

6. Emerging Strategy

The Board’s strategy was to be headed “*Empowering local to share gods mission*” which had been developed in response to questions at the November and March Synods.

There had been a soft launch to date, including at the March Synod and the main launch would take place at the Area Deans and Lay Chairs Conference.

A question was raised about the Church Planting Officer recruitment as this is a critical role. IB confirmed that the job description was being finalised.

7. Diocesan Board of Education Report

In addition to the DBE report included in the meeting papers QR added the following points:

- DBE are encouraging school leaders to think about how to be an effective church school, to think about who they are all the time, how do we underpin a culture of justice and responsibility.
- The CYP Framework are to meet at the end of May, they will get an opportunity to feed into the SMMIB funding.
- There would be a second cohort of Launchpad.
- FUSE event linked to Thy Kingdom Come. 30-40 attended the recent FUSE event held at Aylesham, Jen Tobin is trying to make it more regional, originally seen as a more localised connection.
- The DBE is very concerned there is still a 26% shortage of foundation governors, demotivating to schools, a challenging issue.

8. Mission and Ministry

NE talked through the presentation provided to the Board. The Committee noted the Canterbury Diet plays central role, focusing on clergy formation rather than just training, a way of life, a holistic way of being, supporting clergy and lay ministers. Ministers were offered pastoral and spiritual support. There are 3 residentials offered to clergy taking place every 6 months over the first 2 years in post.

There are currently 60-70 trained accompaniers and 30 trained pastoral supervisors.

GD asked if there was a similar model of the Canterbury Diet planned for Youth Ministers. QR aware that a conversation had taken place around that and that Jen Tobin would be able to provide more information.

9. Ordinary Business of the Committee

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Finance and Assets of 3 March 2025

Approved

Minutes of the Archbishop's Council Meeting of 1 February 2025

Approved.

Minutes of the Archbishop's Council Meeting of 25 March 2025

Approved.

IB advised that that there is a requirement to appoint 2 members of the Archbishop's Council to sit on the Mission & Ministry Framework.

10. AOB

Appointment of a Trustee to the Kent Workplace Mission

IB reported that he had received a request from the Kent Workplace Mission to nominate a member of the Diocese as a Trustee. WA was to be a Trustee for a second term. This appointment was approved.

Bishop Rose closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting concluded at 20:15.