



Bishop Rose opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. APOLOGIES AND NOTICES

Apologies received House of Clergy 21, House of Laity 13.

2. MINUTES OF SYNOD OF 15 MARCH 2025

It was noted that the minutes did not contain the numbers for the apologies for each House. The Chair confirmed that the minutes would be amended.

The minutes were approved subject to the amendment.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

4. OTHER MINUTES FOR NOTING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Archbishop's Council on 29 April and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 24 May.

It was confirmed that proposals to fill casual vacancies for elections would be brought to Archbishop's Council for approval.

5. STRATEGY UPDATE

Synod received an update on Diocesan Strategy.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Proclamation

The Rev'd Rachel Webbley, Reculver Deanery raised the following Point of Order so that synod can be reassured that it was permitted for Archdeacon Will to be the Chair of our Vacancy in See Committee.

"Can Synod be made aware that in the 6 and a half hour debate which Bishop Rose chaired in February, although as the explanatory notes say we did vote for a broader spread of parishes represented on both Vacancy in See committee and Crown Nominations Committee, and also ensured that lay and ordained women are now always included in both those committees, we did vote for .3 in the explanatory notes, where the chair of the ViSC had to be from lay members.

This is an error as an amendment was carried which removed that constraint from the suggested motion, although we did vote to retain the constraint of the prohibition of the chair of the ViSC from being permitted to stand for the CNC, thus retaining the neutrality of that role.

Can we also be assured that this is being corrected by the Church of England legal team and communicated to other dioceses."

The Diocesan Registrar, confirmed that the incorrect draft was circulated by the Church of England and that this had been corrected.

The Act of Synod – Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 as amended was read out by the Chair:

“At the group of sessions of the General Synod held at Westminster in February 2025 the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 in the form it takes following its amendment at that group of sessions was formally affirmed and proclaimed as an Act of Synod.

An Act of Synod is the embodiment of the will or opinion of the Church of England as expressed by the whole body of the General Synod. Copies of the Instrument proclaiming and affirming the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation as an Act of Synod have been sent to members of this Synod.”

Living in Love & Faith Synod 6 September

The Diocesan Secretary confirmed that the resources for this meeting would be circulated.

Members Questions and Answers

Questions and answers are produced in an addendum to these minutes.

There were no supplementary questions raised by the Rev'd Andrew Brown, Sandwich Deanery and Julian Hills, Thanet Deanery, the Rev'd Ravi Holy, Stour Valley Deanery and the Rev'd Rachel Webbley, Reculver Deanery.

In response to a supplementary question can Synod was advised that future vacancies on the Vacancy in See Committee would be kept updated as a priority.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE

1. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Chair of the Board of Finance referred to the Trustees Reports and Financial Statements, together with the explanatory note. The headline figures were contained on page 20 of the report. Net unrestricted expenditure of £1.2million, net gains on investments of £293K, recording an overall net loss of £931k. Gains on restricted fund and revaluation of properties £3.8m, our total funds in 2024 amounted to just over £103m. The Statements give a true and fair view of the finances. The Buzzacott report presented to the CDBF on 14 May undertook a very detailed review noting that there were no significant deficiencies. There is a regular review of account practices and all observations from last year have been actioned.

TR put forward the motion that Synod approve the Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

All in favour, the motion was passed unanimously.

Note to 2025 Accounts

Having received advice from the auditors and sign-off of the accounts, we had challenged one aspect.

As a result, we are now able to advise that £508k of restricted expenditure had been included in the Operational Budget. The Operational Deficit therefore stands at £658k and not £1,166k.

UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURE	2024
	Actual
PARISH MINISTRY	5,398,288
SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK	108,215
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	345,862
LOCAL CHURCH DEV.	167,639
LICENSED MINISTRIES	1,460,040
SENIOR CLERGY	169,531
DIOCESAN STRATEGY	21,865
SUPPORT SERVICES	1,803,111
GRANTS TO PARISHES	130,621
UNPAID PARISH SHARE (12.5%)	N/A
SUBSIDIARIES RAISING FUNDS COSTS	114,754
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (UNRESTRICTED)	9,719,928
TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS) (UNRESTRICTED)	(657,578)

TR put forward the motion for the reappointment of Buzzacott as the auditors of the Board for the 2025 financial year and that the Directors be authorised to fix remuneration of the auditors.

All in favour, the motion was passed unanimously

2. 2024 DIOCESAN SYNOD ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair advised that this is the draft version of the 2024 Annual Report for noting, If there are any questions, the Chair asked for these to be brought to the attention of the Diocesan Secretary who will send the queries on to the relevant diocesan member of staff.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET PROCESS FOR 2026 AND VERBAL FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR 2025.

Finance Department Annual Timetable

Natalia Olszewska, Director of Finance, provided an overview of the work of the Finance Department during the year.

Proposed Budget Process

Synod heard it was difficult to prepare an indicative budget at this point (July, with only one quarter of the year's statistics in) in the financial year. The revised process was intended to enable Parish Share earlier and improve consultation.

On the figures to date, the April deficit was £221k and £280k in May. It was expected that the deficit to be same as last year, not higher. Only 37% of Parish Share paid to June although this was similar to the previous year.

4. DIOCESAN FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS TO 2030

Synod was updated on the Diocesan Financial Projections to 2030 including information from the Triennium Funding Working Group.

The five key objectives presented in March remained:

- Balancing the budget by 2030
- Selling unused housing and bringing together a programme of Glebe sales
- Submitting a funding request to SMMIB
- Seeking a settlement with the National Church Institutions
- Controlling costs

Questions were raised as to how LInC funding was distributed and any analysis was being done on parish payments with LInC. Currently LInC is given as block grant and distributed in two ways:

- time limited grants to parishes for projects up to five years
- grants to distributed to support Parish Share payments in the Lowest Income Communities in this diocese.

The Chair thanked TR and the Team for the all the work that had gone into this.

Sandra Ellils, Co-Chair Children & Young People Framework asked if the Board was selling assets how are we getting advice on this. The Diocesan Secretary noted that the DBF had independent advisers and sales were governed by strict rules. An independent report was required before any sale, purchase or lease was completed.

Damaris Gardener, Ospringe Deanery asked how does selling glebe land how fit with care and creation. The Diocesan Secretary responded that selling glebe land did not necessarily mean that it is given over to property developers. Where the DBF is a partner in development it can better influence what is built.

REFLECTION BY THE VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE FOR 2022-2024

The Archdeacon of Canterbury referred to his reflection on the Vacancy in See Committee. The entire process from the announcement of the Archbishop's impending resignation in November through to May 2025, caused a lot of work and stress. All this was done in the public glare in a way that no other Vacancy in See Committee has had to deal with before. The revision of the regulations had been implemented during the election to the Canterbury Vacancy in See Committee, but this had not delayed the overall timetable. Several synod members commented on the paper, and it was requested that it be circulated to all who had been involved in the ViSC process, not just those on Diocesan Synod. It was agreed that in fact it would not be helpful to request that the ViSC regulations be revisited.

Prayers were offered for the Canterbury representatives and the wider CNC.

All Vacancy in See Committee members, staff, and Patti, as well as those who wrote the Statement of Needs were thanked for their part in the process.

+Rose closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting closed at 20:45