

growing ministry together

Synod Update



The Diocese of
Canterbury

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Dear colleagues,

Anything that happened before Easter may now feel like a distant memory, but we wanted to offer you a brief overview of the most helpful conversations we engaged in at Diocesan Open Synod on 12 March. We spent the morning exploring questions about how we grow both lay and ordained ministries in the Diocese and the afternoon tending to some of the more formal aspects of our life together.

Below you'll find a quick overview of the day, together with the details of a new resource pack for PCCs. The feedback we got was excellent - and you can read it [here](#).

With blessings,

The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover

The Event

Julian Hubbard Director of Ministry for the Church of England, spoke at Open Synod, painting a picture of where we are and what work we might need to do now. People found him honest and inspiring and you can watch his presentation [here](#).

The participants were both encouraged and stirred by the discussions with others from around the Diocese. Their excitement was palpable as they considered how these questions could yield fruitful conversations and change in their churches.

We also heard three personal stories about different types of ministry and calling. More videos [here](#).

Mixed with the enthusiasm was a sober realism about how some of our churches are so down-hearted or stuck in one way of doing things that they prefer to remain as they are than making a change. Words like 'fear', 'love' and 'hope' remained with us as we engaged with scripture and in worship with the God who calls and equips us for a new and exciting different future.

The Resource

[Growing Ministry Together](#) is a conversation kit for PCCs who are serious about growth. More than 200 people who attended Open Synod tried out the resource, considering how healthy their churches are as vocational environments. Based on simple questions about direction, calling, equipping and affirming, groups worked through the things that helped their churches and the challenges they faced.

The conversation kit, downloadable from the diocesan website, includes an overview and four themed leaflets for PCCs, ministry teams and small groups. Each themed leaflet has all you need for fruitful discussion. Facilitators from the Diocesan team are also available to help - email Holly Adams via hadams@diocant.org.

Whatever kind of church you are, the conversation kit will give you tools to reflect on what God has given you, identify the most important issues you could address, and how to do it. If you are a church needing encouragement and tools for growing ministry in your local church let the conversations commence!

For more about the Growing Ministry Together Conversation Kit, visit www.canterburydiocese.org/growingministrytogether or contact: Holly Adams via hadams@diocant.org or 01227 459401.

Other Synod Business

In the afternoon, Synod members discussed some of the more formal elements of our life together. This included:

- Shared Conversations on Human Sexuality: Bishop Trevor shared his reflections on this process with Synod members and looked ahead to the discussions due to take place at General Synod in July.
- Ministers on long-term sick leave: Synod discussed the challenges and pressures of this situation both for the ministers themselves and for their churches.
- Reducing CO2 emissions on our properties: Members heard about plans to review and reduce carbon emissions on all Diocesan properties
- Farewell to Andrew Collie: Andrew has served the Diocese faithfully as Lay Chair of Diocesan Synod but will soon leave the Diocese to take up a role in Derby Diocese. The Synod expressed its immense gratitude for all of Andrew's excellent work for the Diocese. Philip Sibbald has been appointed as Andrew's successor in the role of Lay Chair.

The **next Diocesan Synod** will take place on Wednesday 13 July at Seasalter Christian Centre.