



BRIEF OUTLINE SUMMARY OF THE SYNOD'S 17 JULY 2024 BUSINESS AT ST PETER'S, BATTERSEA

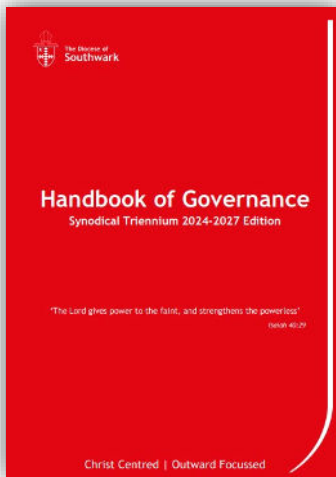
Welcome & Opening Prayer

Members of Synod were welcomed to their final meeting of the triennium, prior to the new Synod meeting in November. The session opened in prayer from the Revd Ian Luke-Macauley of St Peter's, Battersea.

Promulgation Of Amending Canon No 43

The Diocesan Registrar, Jon Baldwin, read the declaration of the promulgation of Amending Canon No 43. A copy of the Declaration can be found at Appendix A, and further information on the [General Synod website](#).

Handbook Of Governance



The Chair of the House of Laity, Adrian Greenwood presented an update to the Handbook of Governance, and moved that:

“this Synod endorses the updated Handbook of Governance for the 2024-2027 Triennium.”

The Handbook included minor changes/corrections, with the added benefit that appendices (four times bigger than the handbook itself) are now hyperlinked to the website.

The Synod unanimously approved the updated Handbook of Governance 2024-2027.

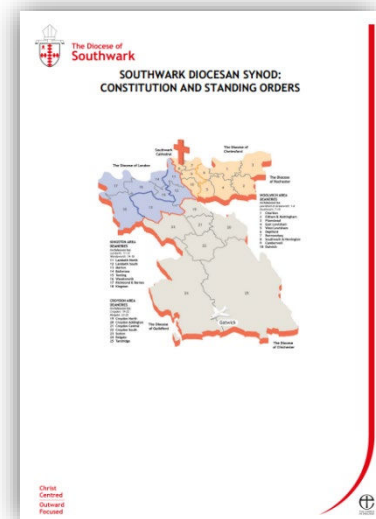
Constitution And Standing Orders For Diocesan Synod

The Chair of the House of Laity, Adrian Greenwood presented an update to the Constitution and Standing Orders, and moved that

“*this Synod endorses the updated Standing Orders for the 2024-2027 Triennium.*”

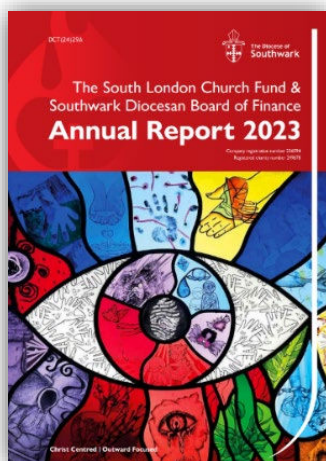
The Constitution and Standing Orders included minor changes/corrections, including one further correction note in the meeting, in preparation for the new Diocesan Synod in November.

The Synod overwhelmingly approved the updated Constitution and Standing Orders 2024-2027 with four against and two abstentions.



Presidential Address

The Bishop of Southwark gave his Presidential Address, saying that “...we are entering an exciting time in the life of this Diocese and our life together will open in new and exciting ways”. The full text of Bishop Christopher’s Presidential Address can be found at Appendix A and on the [website](#).



Annual Report And Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

The Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DCT), Sir David Beamish, gave a presentation and update on the Annual Report for 2023. Members were also presented with a hard copy of the Annual Report, which would also be circulated to parishes over the summer. The presentation included a brief update on the financial situation and work of the Diocese in the previous year. A copy of the slides used can be found at Appendix C.

Sir David Beamish (Chair of the DBF) moved that:

“this Synod receives the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 for the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance.”

The Synod unanimously received the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 for the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance.

Southwark Vision And Diocesan Investment Programme Update

The Diocesan Secretary, Nicola Thomas, gave a presentation and update on Southwark Vision and the recently awarded Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP). A copy of the slides used can be found at Appendix C. In particular DIP, the successful £29m over 9 year award from the National Church, would positively impact parishes across the Diocese with projects developed to encourage growth.

Divestment Update

Mark Rhodes, the Director of Finance, gave a brief update on the work to divest from fossil fuels by the end of 2024. This was to include divesting from two major investment streams into an account managed portfolio. Fund managers were to present to the Investment Committee in October, in time to divest completely from fossil fuels as per the Synod’s motion in 2023.



Triennial Reflection

Adrian Greenwood (Chair of the House of Laity) and the Revd Lotwina Farodoye (Chair of the House of Clergy) gave an update and presentation following requested feedback from members on the triennium. A copy of the slides used can be found at Appendix C.

The presentation included themed areas covering What Went Well, and Even Better If. Comments and feedback would also be included in the upcoming Presidents' Meeting in preparation for the new triennium.

They thanked Synod members for their support and hard work over the previous three years and they, in turn, were thanked for their chairing of the meeting and support to members.

Adrian Greenwood also announced that this was to be his last meeting of the Synod as Lay Chair. Bishop Christopher noted that Adrian had accepted his invitation to be Senior Mentor and Lay Chaplain to the Diocesan Synod in the next triennium, and he was thanked for his six consecutive terms as Lay Chair.

General Synod Update

Rosemary Wilson (General Synod Member) gave an update and reflection on the July Group of Sessions of the General Synod in York. A copy of the slides can be found at Appendix C. She expressed the privilege of being a Synod member and the engagement in many national and important issues. Further information can be found on the [General Synod Website](#).



Formal Synod Questions

Five formal Synod Questions were received for written answer. A copy of Questions Notice Paper, including supplementary questions can be found on the [website](#).

The meeting concluded with a service of Compline, followed by the *thank you* reception to Synod members.

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CONSTITUTIONS AND CANONS ECCLESIASTICAL, maturely treated upon by the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England in their Synod begun at Westminster in the Year of Our Lord Two thousand and twenty-one and in the seventieth year of the Reign of Our Late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory and continued in being upon the Accession of Our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His Other Realms and Territories King Head of the Commonwealth Defender of the Faith being a Canon entitled "Amending Canon No. 43 (Miscellaneous Provisions)" which received His Majesty's Royal Assent and Licence on the fifteenth day of February Two thousand and twenty-four

WE, being the Presidents, the Prolocutor of the Convocation of Canterbury, the Prolocutor of the Convocation of York and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Laity of the said Synod do hereby declare and testify Our Consent to the said Canon entitled "Amending Canon No. 43 (Miscellaneous Provisions)" And in testimony of such Our Consent We have hereunto subscribed our names as hereafter follows:
DATED this twenty-third day of February in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-four and in the second year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Third

+Justin Cantuar:
PRESIDENT

Stephen Ebor:
PRESIDENT

Luke Miller
PROLOCUTOR

Kate Wharton
PROLOCUTOR

James Harrison
CHAIR, HOUSE OF LAITY

Alison Coulter
VICE-CHAIR, HOUSE OF LAITY

REGISTRAR

Diocesan Synod: Wednesday 17 July 2024: Presidential Address

Members of Synod, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I express my thanks and appreciation at this last meeting of the triennium for the contribution you have each made, and I am glad there is a reception at the end to mark this conclusion.

During these last few weeks we have journeyed through Petertide, one of the Church's seasons of ordinations. We have made seventeen deacons, ordained nineteen priests, received the orders of another, and consecrated one Bishop. Bishop Alastair, we welcome you this evening. At Michaelmas, God willing, Anna Drew, our Director of Communications, will be ordained priest in Rochester Cathedral.

It has been a full and joyful season. The gift of Holy Orders reminds us that the Church is a community in which we are open to the calling of Christ and we live this calling out relationally - we are both vocational and relational.

One of the tasks in the new Bishop of Woolwich's role description is to lead a programme of initiatives grouped around the theme 'Valuing our Parishes'. With Bishop Alastair on the episcopal team, we have a new Bishop who begins with a considerable head start because he already knows so many of our parishes, and knows them well. So, with the help of a team, we are taking forward this programme of 'Valuing our Parishes' by opening what we have called 'Parish Conversations'. In these conversations your bishops, along with the Archdeacons and other members of the senior team, will visit every parish of the Diocese over the next two years. This is not another visitation piled on top of everything else our parish clergy must do. They are not inspections! We want to hear and learn of your hopes and dreams in our parishes - conversations intended to deepen our mutuality and build on the bonds of affection that already exist, to focus together on the challenges and opportunities each context presents, to share good practice, and to encourage one another with thankfulness.

This is the context in which our application to the National Church for funding from the Diocesan Investment Programme was made, and has been granted in full. I was very clear with the team as we put this application together that, were we to be successful, I did not want to see two tiers of parishes emerging in the Diocese - those that received DIP funding becoming an elite stream, and everyone else following behind as 'almost rans'. That would make a travesty of our common life and I was - indeed I am - clear that this must not happen. We shall receive the £29m over the next nine years - £21.63m in the first phase of the grant, to be awarded immediately, with an additional £7.44m to fund our hub and resourcing churches in due course. This substantial financial award will help us in our endeavours, with a funding cycle of 9 years a vast improvement on 3 to 5 year cycles. It will allow us to be creative and imaginative as we take forward mission and ministry to meet the challenges of our time - and none of it will be at the expense of core funding for our parishes. For this and our life together in this Diocese, let us bless the Lord.

I shall be very interested to see what develops from the Parish Conversations because they are genuinely open encounters, and put into action our Diocesan vision to be Christ centred and outward focused in all we do. We shall in this Synod approve the 2023 Annual Report, and I express my thanks to Nicola Thomas our Diocesan Secretary and her team at Trinity House for preparing it. The Report restates the basis of our common vision which is, and I quote, 'founded on mutual commitment from all who make up the Diocesan family to walk together in the pilgrimage of faith, supporting, encouraging and resourcing each other in our common task'. With this in view, and as we enter this next stage of our common life - walking together on our pilgrimage, supporting, encouraging and resourcing

one another in our common task - I want also to ask one further thing of you, something both vocational and relational.

I have repeatedly said that I expect all those who hold my licence in this Diocese to speak well of one another across difference, and I have said that this commitment is not about avoiding difficult issues or managing complexity but rather about honouring Christ in one another - for all those who have been baptised have received the Holy Spirit and have an honoured place in the body of Christ.

I want now to articulate this with greater clarity asking that we continue to speak well of each other, of course, but I also want us consciously to honour one another. 'You are the body of Christ and individually members of it,' as St Paul says (1 Corinthians 12.27), also acknowledging the whole variety of gifts and services. We cannot do without one another, because we are saved together or we are not saved at all. Christ our Lord brings home not just the ear, or the leg, or the tail of the lost sheep - he brings the sheep home entire.

I charge our Deanery Chapters and Deanery Synods to continue to pray together. To make a virtue of praying only with those we think are like us is one of the most curious decisions a Christian can make. It is a long way from Bartimaeus's prayer, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' (Luke 18. 38) and seriously inhibits the possibility of encounter with God. The consequences are not limited to our spiritual or interior lives, however. If we pray only with those who share our convictions, we render pastoral ministry virtually impossible. What is the logical extension of this choice? That we only bury the dead who agree with us? That we comfort only those who take our view? God forbid! We are the body of Christ and are each members of it in virtue of our baptism. We can show that we honour one another by praying together - it is enough simply to do this, because everything else will flow from it.

So, my beloved sisters and brothers, we are entering an exciting time in the life of this Diocese and our life together will open in new and exciting ways. We wait expectantly to see what the Lord will do, and we seek God's guidance and God's blessing on all that we in our turn wish to do in response to his love in Christ - all for God's glory and the advancement of his Kingdom. Walking and praying together on our pilgrimage, honouring each other, supporting, encouraging and resourcing one another in our common task of proclaiming the Gospel and working for the Kingdom in faith and hope and love.

*The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun
Bishop of Southwark*