

**Seventh Meeting of the Fortieth Session
NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD
Saturday 18 November 2023 at 09:15 in person**

Summary of Business

The Bishop of Norwich - Presidential Address

The Bishop of Norwich shared his experience of the very affecting scenes he had witnessed in the last six weeks during his trip to Gaza and subsequent return to the UK, on the theme of division.

The full text of The Bishop of Norwich's Presidential Address to Synod can be found here:

[Bishop Graham's presidential address to Diocesan Synod - Diocese of Norwich](#)

Pastoral Review of the Year

The Bishop of Norwich encouraged members to invite the Bishops and Diocesan Secretary to visit local projects, to see first-hand the good work that was being done across the diocese. Contact:

The Rt Revd Graham Usher: bishop@dioceseofnorwich.org

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen: bishop.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop: bishop.thetford@dioceseofnorwich.org

Diocesan Secretary, Tim Sweeting: tim.sweeting@dioceseofnorwich.org

Full details of the Bishop of Norwich's Ahli Hospital in Gaza appeal can be found here:

[Bishop of Norwich's Al-Ahli Hospital Appeal Update December 2023 - Diocese of Norwich](#)

Authorised Pastoral Assistant Scheme

Full details of the role and resources available can be found here:

[Authorised Pastoral Assistant \(APA\) - Diocese of Norwich](#)

Diocesan Vision and Priorities

The Bishop of Lynn and Archdeacon of Norfolk led table discussions on "What is God calling your parish to pay attention to in the next two to three years?" and "The next step is...?"

Synod members were asked to encapsulate their feedback on post-it notes, which would later be transcribed and used to help inform the work of the Vision Programme Board.

Net Zero Carbon Action Plan

Diocesan Secretary, Tim Sweeting, and Diocesan Environment Officer, Barbara Bryant, led the session, speaking to a detailed presentation that reminded Synod of the General Synod Motion: Endorse the route map for each diocese to agree their route map to achieve by 2030.

The following recommendations were agreed:

1. Support the milestones outlined within the national Routemap to Net Zero Carbon and seek to meet those as far as possible within the context of the Diocese of Norwich.
2. Endorse the proposed Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan as a positive direction of travel and asks Bishop's Council of Trustees to oversee its implementation (and review as necessary in light of experience), reporting back to Synod regularly.
3. Calls on parishes, and on others associated with the Diocese, to continue their positive work and form their own plans consistent with the Diocesan intention.

He Kākano Ahau: "I am a seed" by a New Zealand priest, The Revd Jacynthia Murphy.

"I am a seed.

*Pushed forth from creation,
quenched by lifegiving water,
and lovingly nurtured
by my ancestors before me
to live sustainably
so that at life's end,
when I am returned to where seeds emerge,
I may give my eternal gratitude for a life well lived.
It is my responsibility, as kaitiaki (guardian),
planted in scripture and schooled in tikanga (protocol)
to lovingly care for all the elements
that enhance our journey from beginning to end.
To belong to the generational seeds of life,
in harmony with all other life,
is to each flourish and prosper.
This is our blessing from the Creator. Amen".*

The 2024 Budget for the Diocesan Board of Finance

The Diocesan Secretary, Tim Sweeting, explained that the budget was a financial representation of the Parish Support Team's core purpose to enable, encourage and empower local mission and ministry delivered in parishes, schools and chaplaincies. The Finance Director, Sue Bunting, talked through key elements of the detailed assumptions and notes shared with members before the meeting.

In Favour 77 Against 1 Abstentions 1

The 2024 budget was agreed.

Promulgation of Amending Canon No. 42 (Safeguarding)

Diocesan Registrar, Stuart Jones, spoke to amend the previous canon, highlighting the areas that had been changed. The amendment of Canon No. 42 (Safeguarding) was noted.

Update from General Synod July 2023

Members were given a summary of the business of the General Synod meeting and offered the opportunity to ask questions of two nominated General Synod representatives.

Questions under Standing Order 71

Two questions were received from Dereham in Mitford Deanery Synod. One regarding enhanced collaborative working to provide long term solutions for church buildings, to which Nicholas Cannon, DAC Secretary responded. The second related to reviewing safeguarding training delivery to increase the number of people properly trained, to which the Bishop of Thetford responded.