



DIOCESAN SYNOD

BRIEF OUTLINE SUMMARY OF THE SYNOD'S [12 July 2023](#) BUSINESS AT ST PETER'S, BATTERSEA



WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Members of Synod were welcomed to the meeting and the Archdeacon of Lambeth opened the meeting in prayer.

This was to be the last meeting of the Diocesan Synod in which Ruth Martin would attend in her current capacity as the Diocesan Secretary before becoming the Bishop's Lead on Strategic Development and Property Strategy in the Autumn. Nicola Thomas, the incoming Diocesan Secretary, and Andrew Bennett, Director of Property Services, were also welcomed to the meeting.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Bishop of Southwark gave his Presidential Address, urging those present to continue to seek unity. He said: "I stand here as your brother in Christ. Our lives are bound together as we witness to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am committed to upholding your theological convictions in the belief that they are held in good faith. I ask and expect that we live and work as those who are bound together by a common baptism and a common profession of faith in the living God who has revealed himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We cannot witness effectively without each other. We are what God has made us, his by creation and redemption, none of us with the right or the prerogative to say to another sister or brother that we can do without them."

The full text of Bishop Christopher's Presidential Address can be found [here](#) and at Appendix A.

MIDYEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE AND 3 YEAR FORWARD VIEW

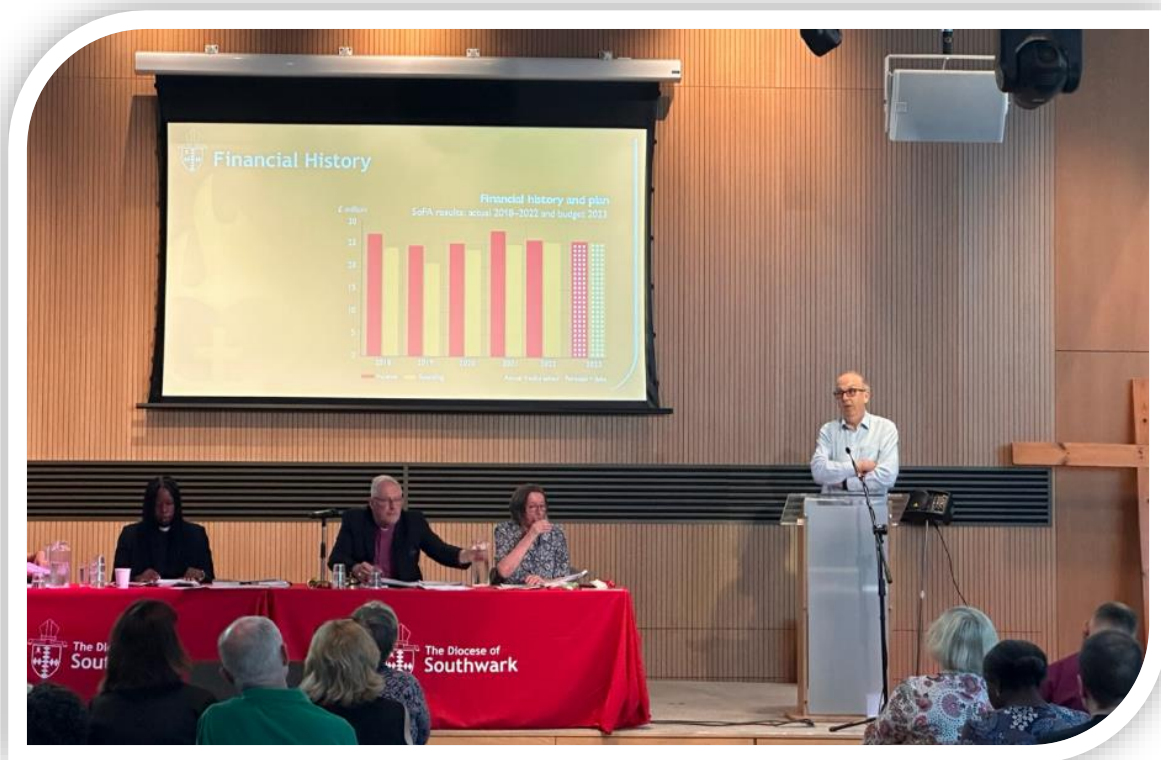
The Diocesan Secretary and Mark Rhodes, Director of Finance, gave an update on the midyear finances and a forward view for the following three years. A copy of the slides used can be found at Appendix B.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022, AND AUDIT OUTCOMES

The Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Sir David Beamish, gave a PowerPoint presentation and update on the Annual Report and Financial Statements which had been approved by the DCT at its AGM in May. A copy of the slides used can be found at Appendix B.



The presentation included financial highlights from 2022, financial history, which showed that the Diocese was committed to ensuring financial resilience and wellbeing as well as some of the key achievements throughout the previous year.

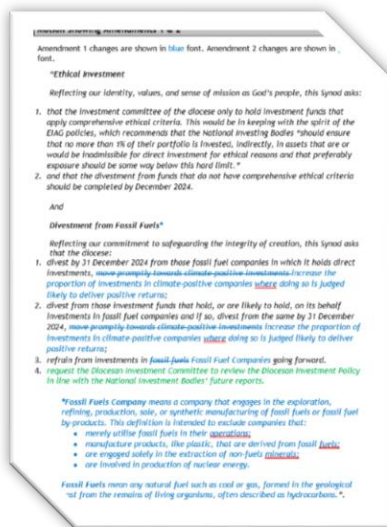


Sir David Beamish (Chair of the DBF) moved that:

“this Synod receives the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022, for the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance.”

The motion was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

BATTERSEA DEANERY SYNOD MOTIONS ON ETHICAL INVESTMENT



The Synod continued its multi-session debate which was moved at the March 2023 Diocesan Synod and adjourned for further debate and conclusion following receipt of the report of the National Church's review of its own ethical investment policy.

Two amendments had been received (which can be view on the notice paper), from Marshall Manson (Deptford Deanery) and one from Sir David Beamish (Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance). Both amendments were overwhelmingly carried, and a copy of the amendments can be found at Appendix C.

The Motion, as amended, was overwhelmingly approved with by a show of hands.

"Ethical Investment

Reflecting our identity, values, and sense of mission as God's people, this Synod asks:

- 1. that the investment committee of the diocese only to hold investment funds that apply comprehensive ethical criteria. This would be in keeping with the spirit of the EIAG policies, which recommends that the National Investing Bodies "should ensure that no more than 1% of their portfolio is invested, indirectly, in assets that are or would be inadmissible for direct investment for ethical reasons and that preferably exposure should be some way below this hard limit."*
- 2. and that the divestment from funds that do not have comprehensive ethical criteria should be completed by December 2024.*

And

Divestment from Fossil Fuels*

Reflecting our commitment to safeguarding the integrity of creation, this Synod asks that the diocese:

- 1. divest by 31 December 2024 from those fossil fuel companies in which it holds direct investments, increase the proportion of investments in climate-positive companies where doing so is judged likely to deliver positive returns;*
- 2. divest from those investment funds that hold, or are likely to hold, on its behalf investments in fossil fuel companies and if so, divest from the same by 31 December 2024, increase the proportion of investments in climate-positive companies where doing so is judged likely to deliver positive returns;*
- 3. refrain from investments in Fossil Fuel Companies going forward.*
- 4. request the Diocesan Investment Committee to review the Diocesan Investment Policy in line with the National Investing Bodies' future reports.*

****Fossil Fuels Company*** means a company that engages in the exploration, refining, production, sale, or synthetic manufacturing of fossil fuels or fossil fuel by-products. This definition is intended to exclude companies that:

- *merely utilise fossil fuels in their operations;*
- *manufacture products, like plastic, that are derived from fossil fuels;*
- *are engaged solely in the extraction of non-fuels minerals;*
- *are involved in production of nuclear energy.*

Fossil Fuels mean any natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms, often described as hydrocarbons.”

A copy of the full press release can be found [online](#).

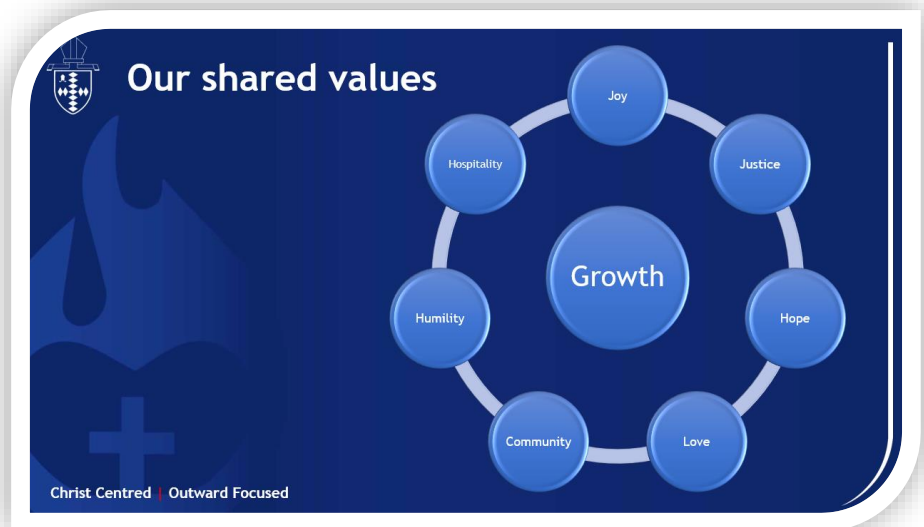
SOUTHWARK VISION AND DIOCESAN INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2023-2035

The Diocesan Secretary and the Revd Canon Jeremy Clark-King gave a presentation to accompany their paper to introduce the next phase of Southwark Vision (2023-2035) and the planned Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP), funded by the Church Commissioners which is the successor to the Strategic Development Fund (SDF).

The DIP is described as a **partnership** between the Church Commissioners and dioceses linking visions and strategies which align nationally for growing **Simpler, Humbler, Bolder** and in the spirit of the National Church’s objectives.

Synod members entered into group work to discuss:

- **What excites you?**
- **What concerns do you have?**
- **What ideas do you have?**



Following the Diocesan Synod, Episcopal Areas will now undertake further consultations locally.

GENERAL SYNOD UPDATE

The Revd Sandra Schloss (General Synod Member) gave a brief update and presentation of the July Group of Sessions’ General Synod meeting which included items on Living in Love & Faith and safeguarding. Further details can be found on the [Church of England](#) website.

FORMAL QUESTIONS

Formal questions and answers were presented to members and the Notice Paper can be found on the [website](#).

WORSHIP & CLOSING

Synod members began worship with the Diocesan Secretary leading a presentation of [This Time Tomorrow](#) followed by Compline. Bishop Christopher also commissioned the Revd Esther Foss as Dean of Women's Ministry while also retaining her role as Croydon Area Women's Ministry Adviser, and the Revd Sue Clarke as Diocesan Retirement Officer and also Kingston Area Retirement Officer.

FAREWELL FOR THE DIOCESAN SECRETARY

Following the meeting there was an opportunity to say thanks, and farewell to the Diocesan Secretary.



Diocesan Synod: Presidential Address: 12th July 2023

I enjoy my visits to the beautiful city of York - but it is always good to return to Southwark from General Synod and come home from that distinctively Anglican form of public introspection to a Diocese whose priority is simply to be Christ centred and outward focused. It is very easy to be swept along by General Synod - its never-ending processes, its personalities and politics, and everything else that goes with it. I am always proud of the contribution made by Team Southwark and I am thankful the Church of England is episcopally led and synodically governed - General Synod is at its best when it does not lose sight of the bigger picture which is our joyful responsibility to share the love of Christ with the nation in each and every parish up and down the land.

In Southwark we have worked hard to ensure that our governance - of which this Synod is an essential part - serves the outworking of our Christian faith. Our purpose in whatever role in which we are called is to serve our parishes, chaplaincies and new worshipping communities. It is always essential to retain a prayerful focus on Christ at a personal level if we are each to serve God and neighbour. I am confident our central functions reflect this.

This evening's Synod is the last that Ruth Martin will attend as Diocesan Secretary and I invite you to stay on for a short reception afterwards in which we can express our thanks. In September, Ruth takes on a new role as Bishop's Lead for Strategic Development, working with me and Nicola Thomas, her successor as Diocesan Secretary. When Ruth arrived in Trinity House, from the start Ruth

wanted to ground everything in prayer and one of the fruits of this is a regular patten of prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist at Trinity House. Ruth's contribution to the life of our Diocese, the great dignity she has shown in handling difficult matters, her sense of work as a vocation, and immense dedicated attention to detail in ensuring that structures work cohesively and colleagues work collaboratively - all this has been truly remarkable. Ruth set to work implementing very significant governance changes but was always keen to shape culture and this bore fruit in 'Lead, Enable, Serve' which continues to guide and inform Diocesan staff in prioritising a spirit of service and a commitment to equip our parishes for mission.

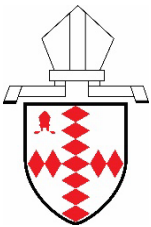
Ruth, thank you for this and for your many other accomplishments as Diocesan Secretary - not least for helping the Diocese to navigate its way through the Pandemic by ensuring financial and administrative functions remained stable. We will give thanks in September at the service of Choral Evensong in the Cathedral on Thursday 14 September and may God continue to bless you in your new role and your ongoing ministry as a Street Pastor and Reader.

I was glad that members of General Synod who gathered in York Minster to worship together on Sunday were able to demonstrate our common life in Christ. The reception of Living in Love and Faith continues. Some have voiced their anxieties and concerns following the endorsement of the motion in February's General Synod by each of the three Houses. But the work of the three groups on pastoral provision, pastoral guidance and the prayers continues and the Bishop of London spoke with dignity and insight in the update we were given on Saturday

afternoon. I commend her address to you all. I was particularly moved when at one point she said in response to a question, 'I answer as your sister in Christ'.

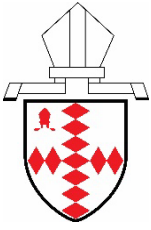
I stand here as your brother in Christ. Our lives are bound together as we witness to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am committed to upholding your theological convictions in the belief that they are held in good faith. I ask and expect that we live and work as those who are bound together by a common baptism and a common profession of faith in the living God who has revealed himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We cannot witness effectively without each other. We are what God has made us, his by creation and redemption, none of us with the right or the prerogative to say to another sister or brother that we can do without them.

So let us meet, and pray, and work as those who know that God has made us fellow workers with Christ and one another, brothers and sisters, children of God, wonderfully and fearfully made, co-heirs with Christ. To God be the glory from age to age.



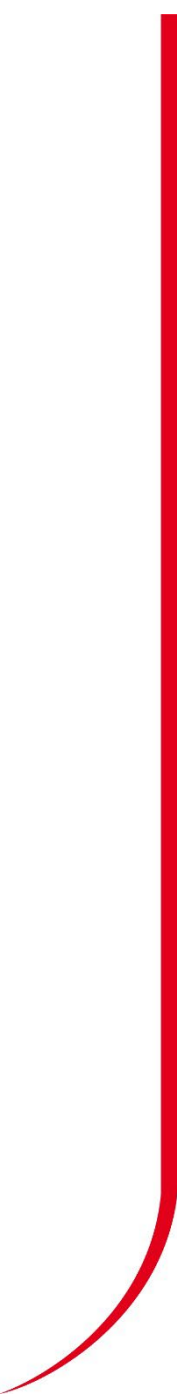
Item 12/23

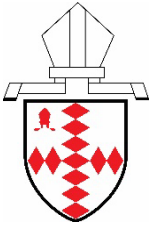
Welcome & opening prayer



Item 13/23

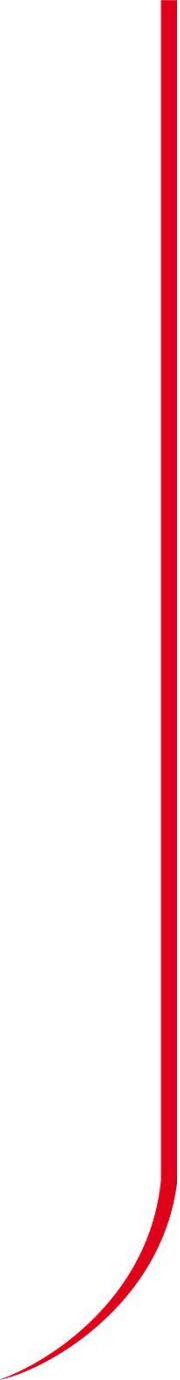
Announcements & notices

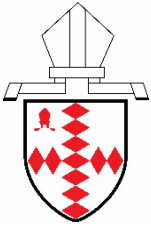




Item 14/23

Presidential Address

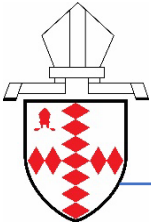




Item 15/23

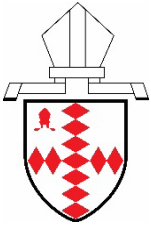
Midyear Financial Update and 3 Year Forward View

Presentation by the Diocesan Secretary and Mark Rhodes, Director of Finance.



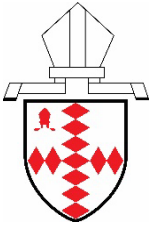
3 Year Forward View

	Forecast 2023 £m	Forward View 2024 £m	Forward View 2025 £m	Forward View 2026 £m
Parish Support Fund	15.9	16.2	16.7	17.2
Fees, Grants, Investment & other income	5.8	7.6	7.0	6.9
Property income and gains	4.8	4.7	4	5
Total Income	26.5	28.5	27.7	29.1
Stipends	12.6	13.0	13.4	13.8
Housing Costs	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8
Vocations, Training & Other Ministry Support	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.8
Strategic Development/Pioneering	0.7	2.0	2.0	1.9
Diocesan Investment Programme	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Contributions to National Church	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Total Expenditure	25.7	28.2	28.3	29.0
Provisional surplus / (deficit)	0.8	0.3	(0.6)	0.1



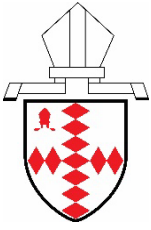
Overview

- Continued uncertainty regarding Cost of Living, property market and LLF
- Cannot yet forecast for DIP through to 2026 as subject to 2024 application
- Assumes divestment from investment funds holding fossil fuel companies in line with direction of travel from the Church of England's National Investment Bodies



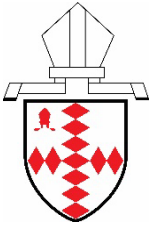
Assumptions

- PSF overall increase by 3.3% in 2024 based on indicative costs, 3% increase in 2025/26
- PSF as shown for 2024 onwards reflects a reduction of 1.5% in anticipation of reduced collection due to LLF



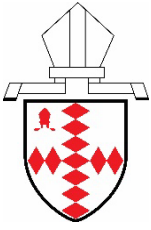
Assumptions

- Parochial fees increase with inflation (with a cap), assumption of 5% in 2024 and 3% in 2025/26
- Mid-year Forecast for 2023 and Forward View 2024 shows improved finances as Quinquennial Reviews in the light of CNZ targets lead to over-large properties needing to be sold
Approximations are given for 2025/26 as these reviews continue



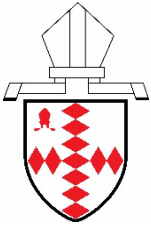
Assumptions

- Property income reduction of £0.1m in 2024 due to use of housing for SDF3, growth of 3% thereafter as rental market remains strong
- Other income remains flat
- We have a detailed plan of the property sales and purchases in 2024 and less clarity on those for 2025/26. Further work on both years, in consultation with archdeacons, will be undertaken as we continue the Quinquennial Inspections



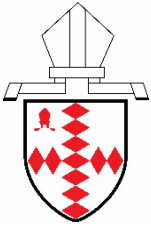
Assumptions

- The current expectation is for replacement property purchases of at least £9m during the triennium
- Maintain the current number of stipendiary clergy across the three-year forecast
- Stipends are currently forecast to increase by 4% in 2024 and 3% in 2025/26 (with the same for staff salaries) but this is subject to the formal budgeting later in the year
- Similarly, costs other than stipend and salaries are forecast to rise by an average of 3%



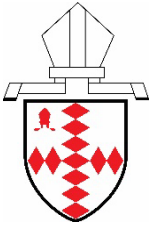
Assumptions

- Following the Diocesan Synod's endorsement for CNZ plans in March 2023, a Carbon Net Zero Designated Fund will be established by the year end
- The fund, together with some future surpluses from property sales will be used to fund further property improvements in line with energy efficiency and carbon footprint recommendations



Assumptions

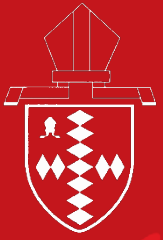
- The extent of the work required will be clearer as we continue Quinquennial Inspections
- We have an estimate for costs and equivalent grant for the beginning of the Diocesan Investment Programme in 2024. The position will be clearer for the July 2024 Synod, after the outcome of the application for funding to the Church Commissioners anticipated for February 2024
- We expect the payment to the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education to increase by 3% broadly in line with other cost rises
- Contributions to the National Church remain flat as the national Church seeks to find savings in its costs



Item 16/23

Midyear Financial Update and 3 Year Forward View

Presentation by the Diocesan Secretary and Mark Rhodes, Director of Finance.



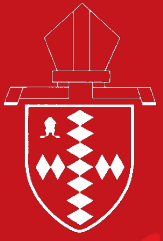
16/22

Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

The South London Church Fund & Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance **Annual Report 2022**

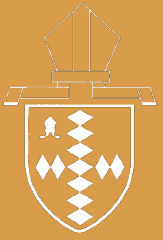
Company registration number 236594
Registered charity number 249678





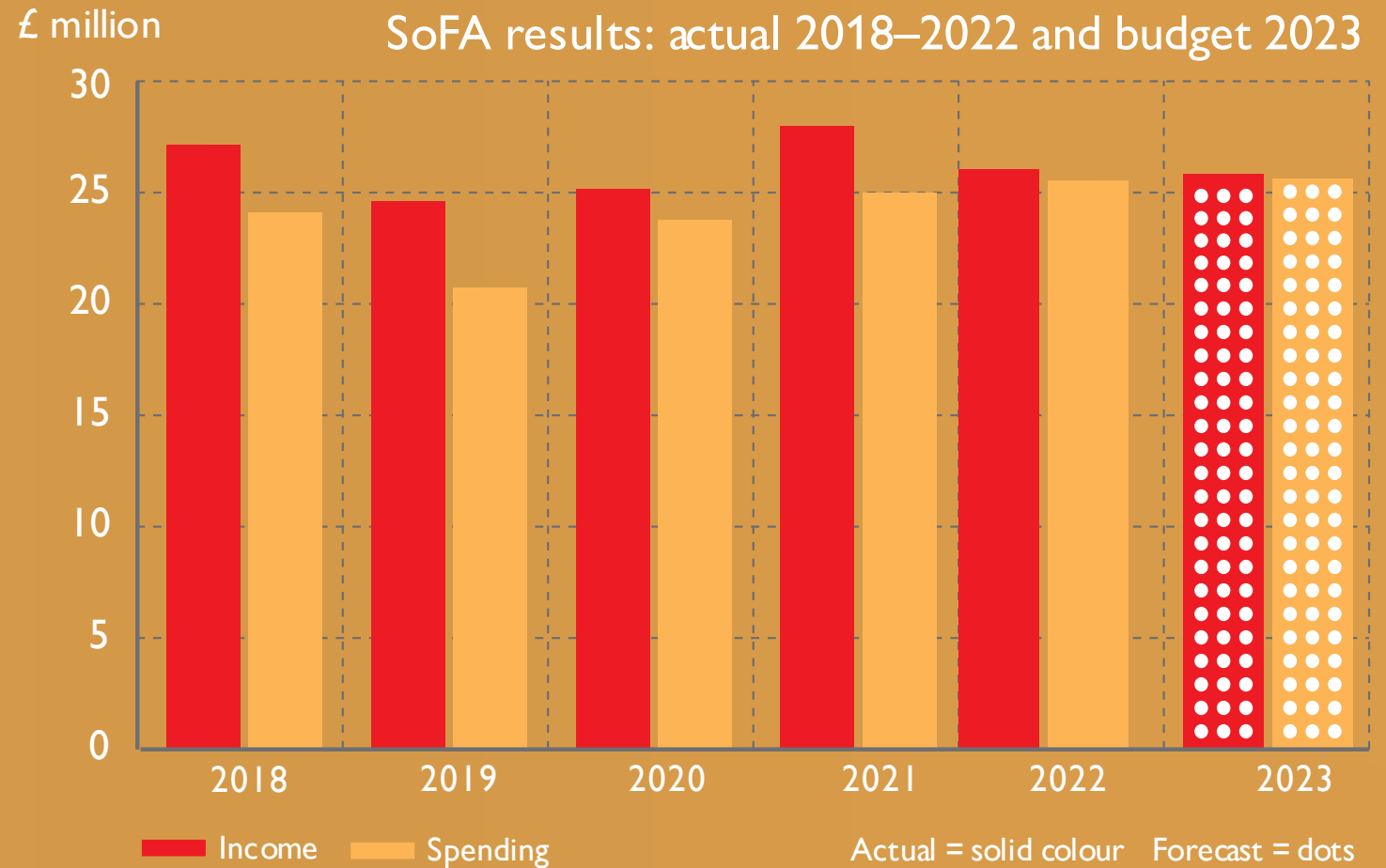
Sir David Beamish (Chair of the DBF) to move that:

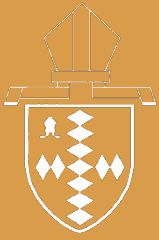
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Financial History

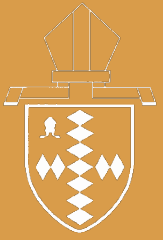
Financial history and plan





Financial Highlights 2022

- Lower deficit than expected
- Achieved a small operating surplus of £0.2m (i.e. before property valuations and losses/gains on investments)
- Achieved 3 months operational cash reserves in line with the Diocesan Reserves Policy and Strategic Objectives
- Good outturn
- Parish Support Fund collection rate 99.4%
- £0.5m Trust for London Grant (from £1.5m received in 2021) reserved into 2023 to be allocated to Southwark Vision Development Fund, (Otherwise Diocese would have had a small overall surplus)
- Diocese repaid all its loan commitments, apart from those held for parishes



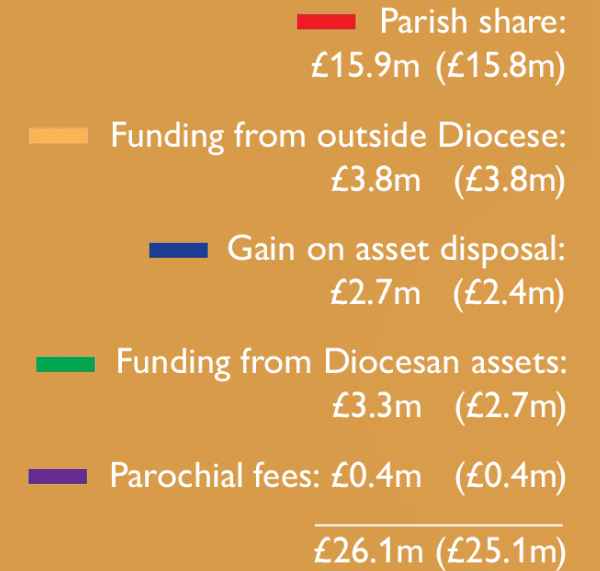
2022 Income vs (Budget)

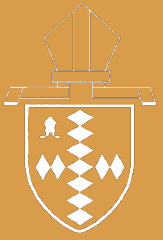
Total Income £26.1m

This shows improvement against budget of almost all income streams



2022 FY Income vs (Budget)

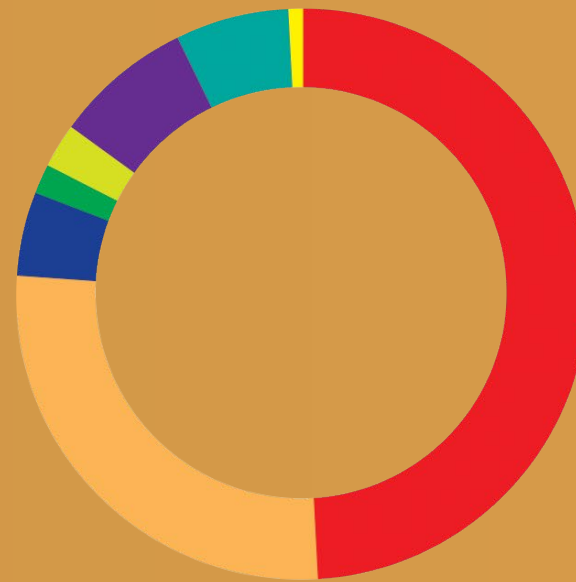




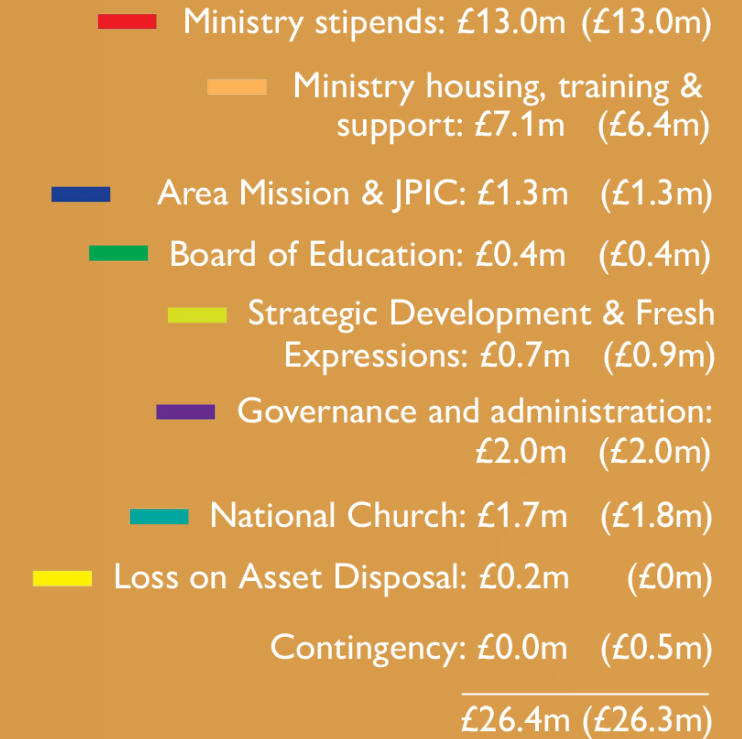
2022 Expenditure vs (Budget)

Total Income £26.4m

This shows increased expenditure on ministry stipends and housing



2022 Expenditure* vs (Budget)

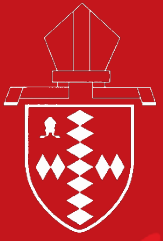


*Excludes reduction in pension scheme liability



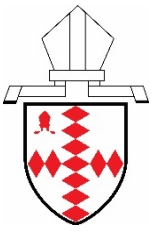
Other Key achievements & notable events

- Successful Diocesan Conference - first joint lay and ordained conference
- Strong church and community partnership for the late HM Queen Elizabeth
- Celebration of Bishop Rosemarie and announcement of Bishop Martin (Bishop of Kingston)
- A Season of Lay Ministries
- Aurora course launched to support training of CYP workers
- First joint licensing & commissioning service for lay ministers (SPAs and Readers)
- Gained Bronze Eco-Diocese status
- Refugee support including Ukrainian & Hong Kong nationals
- 57% reduction in backlog of safeguarding training and conclusion of PCR2 Review and progress in implementation



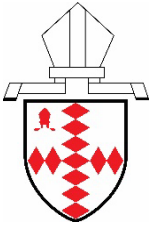
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Item 08/23

Battersea Deanery Synod Motion on Ethical Investment



Original Motion

“Ethical Investment

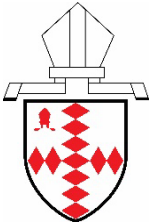
Reflecting our identity, values, and sense of mission as God’s people, this Synod asks:

- 1. that the investment committee of the diocese only to hold investment funds that apply comprehensive ethical criteria. This would be in keeping with the spirit of the EIAG policies, which recommends that the National Investing Bodies “should ensure that no more than 1% of their portfolio is invested, indirectly, in assets that are or would be inadmissible for direct investment for ethical reasons and that preferably exposure should be some way below this hard limit.”*
- 2. and that the divestment from funds that do not have comprehensive ethical criteria should be completed by December 2024.*

Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Reflecting our commitment to safeguarding the integrity of creation, this Synod asks that the diocese:

- 1. divest by 31 December 2024 from those fossil fuel companies in which it holds direct investments, and move promptly towards climate-positive investments;*
- 2. divest from those investment funds that hold, or are likely to hold, on its behalf investments in fossil fuel companies and if so, divest from the same by 31 December 2024, and move promptly towards climate-positive investments;*
- 3. refrain from investments in fossil fuels going forward.”*



Amendment 1 - Mr Marshall Manson (Deptford Deanery)

“Ethical Investment [...]

AND

*Divestment from Fossil Fuels**

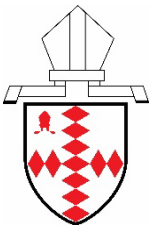
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3. refrain from investments in ~~fossil fuels~~ Fossil Fuel Companies going forward.

[...continued]



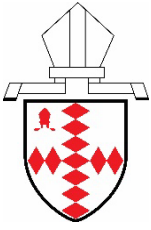
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- merely utilise fossil fuels in their operations;*
- manufacture products, like plastic, that are derived from fossil fuels;*
- are engaged solely in the extraction of non-fuels minerals;*
- are involved in production of nuclear energy.*

Fossil Fuels mean any natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms, often described as hydrocarbons.”



Original Motion

“Ethical Investment

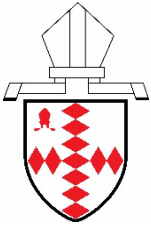
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Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Reflecting our commitment to safeguarding the integrity of creation, this Synod asks that the diocese:

- 1. divest by 31 December 2024 from those fossil fuel companies in which it holds direct investments, and move promptly towards climate-positive investments;*
- 2. divest from those investment funds that hold, or are likely to hold, on its behalf investments in fossil fuel companies and if so, divest from the same by 31 December 2024, and move promptly towards climate-positive investments;*
- 3. refrain from investments in fossil fuels going forward.”*



Motion with Amendment 1

“Ethical Investment

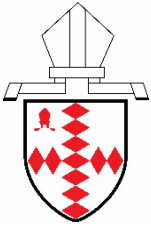
Reflecting our identity, values, and sense of mission as God’s people, this Synod asks:

- 1. that the investment committee of the diocese only to hold investment funds that apply comprehensive ethical criteria. This would be in keeping with the spirit of the EIAG policies, which recommends that the National Investing Bodies “should ensure that no more than 1% of their portfolio is invested, indirectly, in assets that are or would be inadmissible for direct investment for ethical reasons and that preferably exposure should be some way below this hard limit.”*
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- 3. refrain from investments in Fossil Fuel Companies going forward. [...continued]*



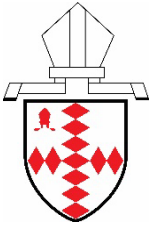
Motion with Amendment 1

...

**Fossil Fuels Company means a company that engages in the exploration, refining, production, sale, or synthetic manufacturing of fossil fuels or fossil fuel by-products. This definition is intended to exclude companies that:*

- merely utilise fossil fuels in their operations;*
- manufacture products, like plastic, that are derived from fossil fuels;*
- are engaged solely in the extraction of non-fuels minerals;*
- are involved in production of nuclear energy.*

Fossil Fuels mean any natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms, often described as hydrocarbons.”



Amendment 2 - Sir David Beamish (ex-officio)

“Ethical Investment

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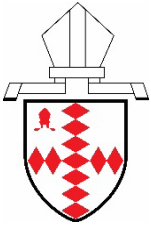
[...]

AND

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- 4. Request the Diocesan Investment Committee to review the Diocesan Investment Policy in line with the National Investment Bodies’ future reports.”*



Amendment 2 after Amendment 1 - Sir David Beamish (ex-officio)

“Ethical Investment

[...]

AND

Divestment from Fossil Fuels

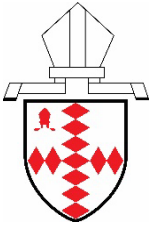
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3. refrain from investments in Fossil Fuel Companies going forward.

4. Request the Diocesan Investment Committee to review the Diocesan Investment Policy in line with the National Investment Bodies’ future reports.

**Fossil Fuels Company means a company that engages in the exploration[...]*”



Motion with Amendment 2

“Ethical Investment

Reflecting our identity, values, and sense of mission as God’s people, this Synod asks:

- 1. that the investment committee of the diocese only to hold investment funds that apply comprehensive ethical criteria. This would be in keeping with the spirit of the EIAG policies, which recommends that the National Investing Bodies “should ensure that no more than 1% of their portfolio is invested, indirectly, in assets that are or would be inadmissible for direct investment for ethical reasons and that preferably exposure should be some way below this hard limit.”*
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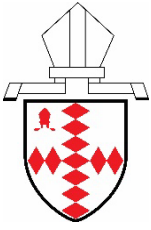
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- 4. Request the Diocesan Investment Committee to review the Diocesan Investment Policy in line with the National Investment Bodies’ future reports.”*

AND

Walking | Welcoming | Growing



Motion with Amendments 1 & 2

“Ethical Investment

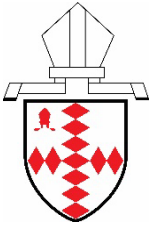
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- 3. refrain from investments in Fossil Fuel Companies going forward. [...continued]*



Motion with Amendment 1

...

4. Request the Diocesan Investment Committee to review the Diocesan Investment Policy in line with the National Investment Bodies' future reports.

**Fossil Fuels Company means a company that engages in the exploration, refining, production, sale, or synthetic manufacturing of fossil fuels or fossil fuel by-products. This definition is intended to exclude companies that:*

- merely utilise fossil fuels in their operations;*
- manufacture products, like plastic, that are derived from fossil fuels;*
- are engaged solely in the extraction of non-fuels minerals;*
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Fossil Fuels mean any natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms, often described as hydrocarbons.”



Item 17

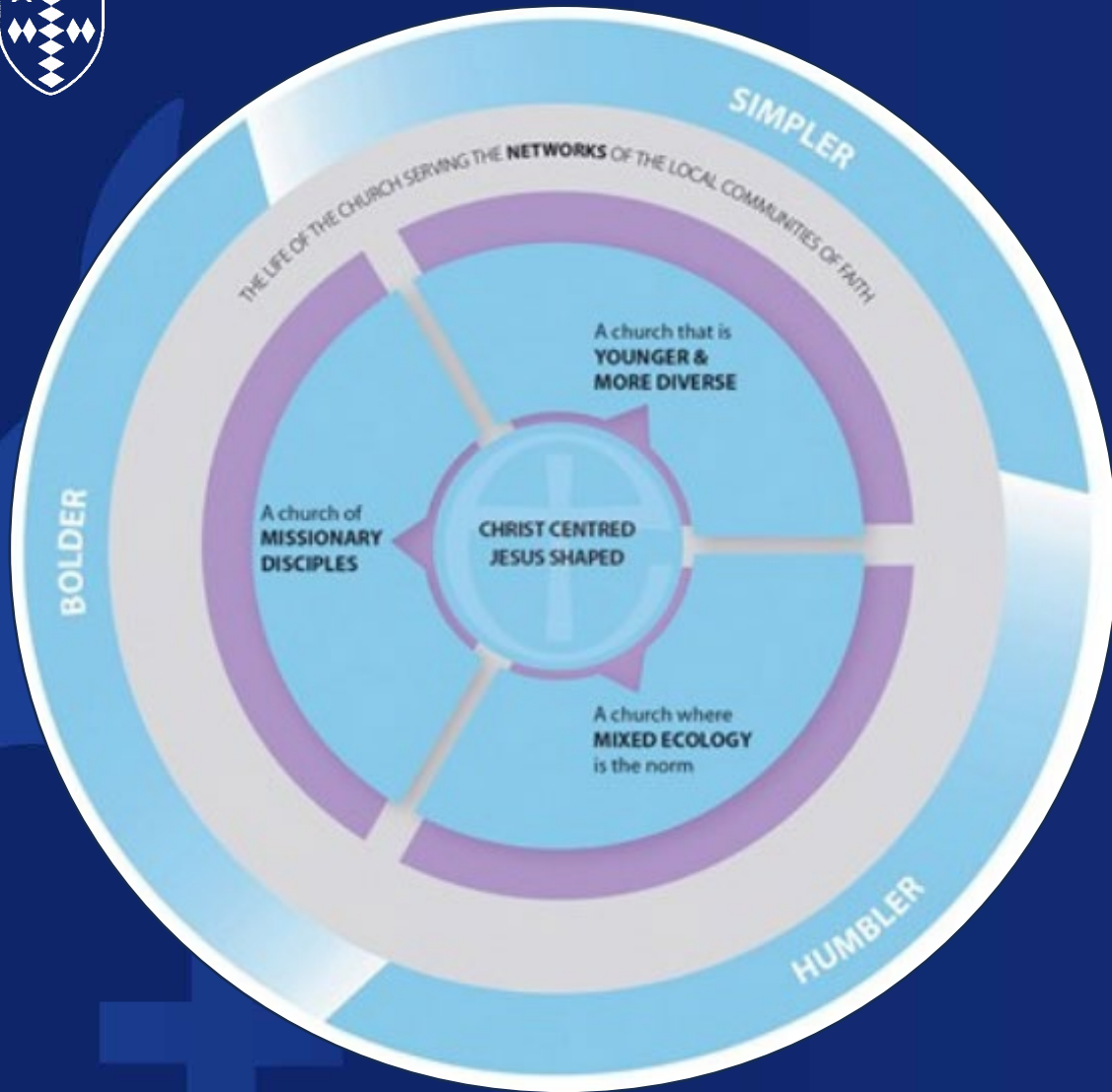
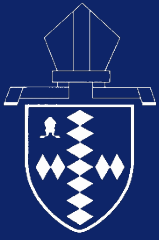
Southwark Vision 2023-2035 & the Diocesan Investment Programme

Presentation by the Diocesan Secretary including group work



Christ Centred | Outward Focused





To become a Church of missionary disciples where all God's people are free to live the Christian life, wherever we spend our time Sunday to Saturday.

To be a Church where mixed ecology* is the norm - where every person in England has access to an enriching and compelling community of faith by adding new churches and new forms of Church to our parishes, cathedrals, schools and chaplaincies

To be a Church that is younger and more diverse



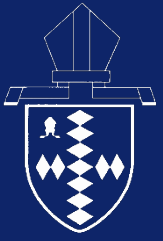
Our shared values





Maintaining the highest possible number of stipendiary clergy and growing lay ministries

We are committed to ensuring that our parishes are served by well-resourced and well-supported clergy, including our Self-Supporting ministers and our PTO ministers, and will continue to foster and grow our lay ministries



Growing our existing churches and establishing new worshipping communities

We want to see our churches surpassing pre-pandemic levels in the next five years and growing a further 10% by 2035



Becoming younger and more diverse

We wish to see our churches evolve to better reflect the communities in which they serve and the gifts of the whole people of God



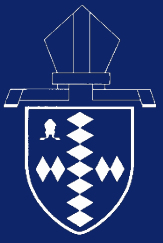
Deepening our discipleship

Christ is at the heart of our faith and we will only grow by being intentional about going deeper in our journey with him



Seeking the healing of our communities and our world

Christ's call for healing and reconciliation requires us to grapple with many of the issues that we face as a society including social justice, racial justice and care for creation



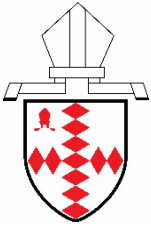
With your neighbours at Synod this evening please discuss:

What excites you?

What concerns do you have?

What ideas do you have?

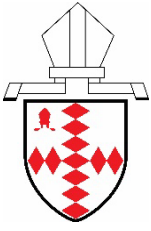
Post-its will be provided which can be placed on boards at the back.



Item 18/23

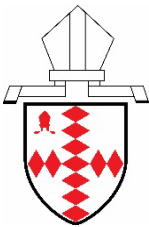
General Synod presentation

The Revd Sandra Schloss



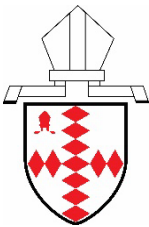
Item 19/23

Formal Synod Questions



This Time Tomorrow

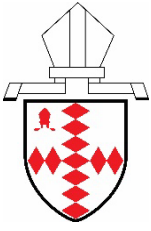




Compline

in Ordinary Time



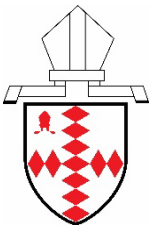


Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night
and a perfect end.

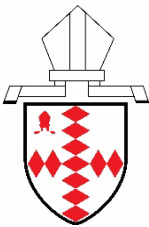
All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who made heaven and earth



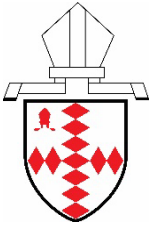
Prayers of Penitence

All Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.



May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

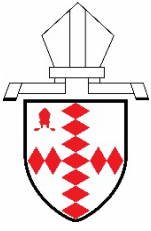


All Stand

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

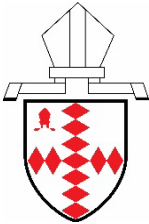
All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.



Hymn

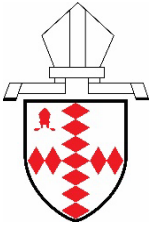
All Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.



All O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death. Amen.

All Sit

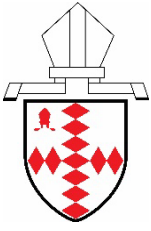


Psalmody

Psalm 31:1-5

Refrain Into your hands I commend my spirit.

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
 let me never be put to shame; ♦
 deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 **Incline your ear to me; ♦ make haste to deliver me.**
- 3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
 for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦
 guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

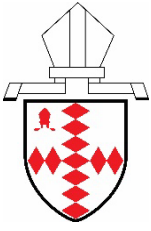


4 Take me out of the net that they have laid
secretly for me, ♦
for you are my strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Refrain Into your hands I commend my spirit.

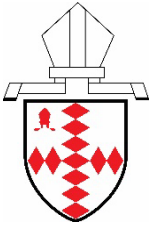


Reading

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour.
Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5:8-9

All Thanks be to God.



Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

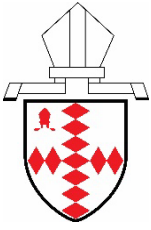
All I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

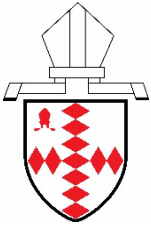


All Stand

The Nunc Dimittis

Refrain Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.

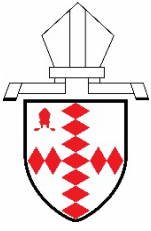
- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace ♦
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 **My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦**
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.



All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Refrain **Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us
while sleeping, that awake we may watch
with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.**

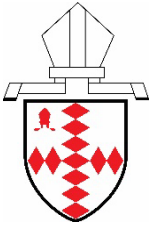
***Sit for a short period of silence which is kept to offer the
prayers of our hearts and minds to Almighty God***



Collect

Let us pray.

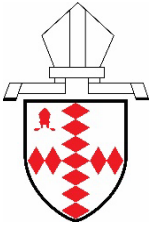
Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us;

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

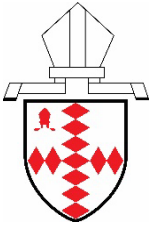


Conclusion

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work,
or watch, or weep this night, and give your
angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary,
bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

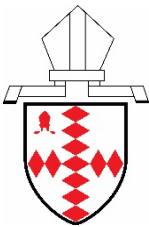
All Amen.



All In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

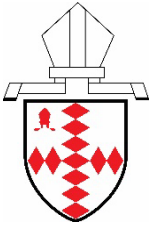
All Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

All As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

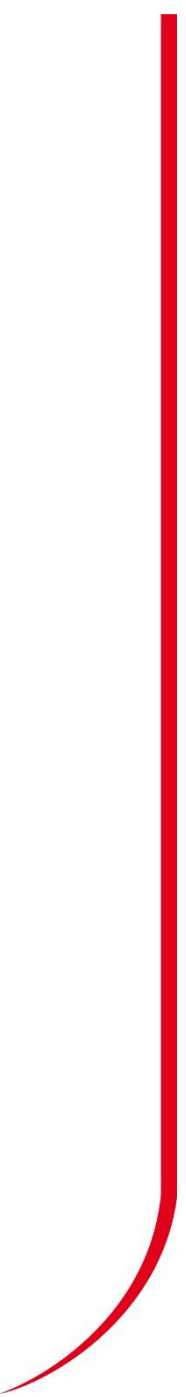


All The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.



Farewell for the Diocesan Secretary





DIOCESAN SYNOD SYNOD MOTION AMENDMENT NOTICE PAPER

Following the adjournment of the Deanery Synod Motion on Ethical Investment DS(23)08A&B in March 2023 Diocesan Synod, two amendments have been received. The mover of the original motion (and those proposing amendments) are in agreement with said amendments. Members will have the opportunity to debate each amendment, before voting on said amendment, and then vote on the motion in its final form.

Below for reference during the debate is:

- The original Motion
- Amendment from Marshall Manson (Deptford Deanery)
- Amendment from Sir David Beamish (Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance)
- The Motion with amendments in colour for ease of use.

Original Motion

The Revd Richard Taylor (Battersea Deanery) moved that:

“Ethical Investment

Reflecting our identity, values, and sense of mission as God’s people, this Synod asks:

1. *that the investment committee of the diocese only to hold investment funds that apply comprehensive ethical criteria. This would be in keeping with the spirit of the EIAG policies, which recommends that the National Investing Bodies “should ensure that no more than 1% of their portfolio is invested, indirectly, in assets that are or would be inadmissible for direct investment for ethical reasons and that preferably exposure should be some way below this hard limit.”*
2. *and that the divestment from funds that do not have comprehensive ethical criteria should be completed by December 2024.*

And

Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Reflecting our commitment to safeguarding the integrity of creation, this Synod asks that the diocese:

1. *divest by 31 December 2024 from those fossil fuel companies in which it holds direct investments, and move promptly towards climate-positive investments;*
2. *divest from those investment funds that hold, or are likely to hold, on its behalf investments in fossil fuel companies and if so, divest from the same by 31 December 2024, and move promptly towards climate-positive investments;*
3. *refrain from investments in fossil fuels going forward.”*

Amendment 1

Mr Marshall Manson (Deptford Deanery) to move that:

1. *Divestment from Fossil Fuels* §1 remove “move promptly towards climate-positive investments”;
2. *Divestment from Fossil Fuels* §1 add “increase the proportion of investments in climate-positive companies where doing so is judged likely to deliver positive returns”;
3. *Divestment from Fossil Fuels* §2 remove “move promptly towards climate-positive investments”;
4. *Divestment from Fossil Fuels* §2 add “increase the proportion of investments in climate-positive companies where doing so is judged likely to deliver positive returns”;
5. *Divestment from Fossil Fuels* §3 remove “fossil fuels”;
6. *Divestment from Fossil Fuels* §3 add “Fossil Fuel Companies”; and
7. after *Divestment from Fossil Fuels* §3 add “*Fossil Fuels Company means a company that engages in the exploration, refining, production, sale, or synthetic manufacturing of fossil fuels or fossil fuel by-products. This definition is intended to exclude companies that:
 - merely utilise fossil fuels in their operations;
 - manufacture products, like plastic, that are derived from fossil fuels;
 - are engaged solely in the extraction of non-fuels minerals;
 - are involved in production of nuclear energy.

Fossil Fuels mean any natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms, often described as hydrocarbons.”.

Amendment 2

Sir David Beamish (ex-officio) to move that:

1. after *Divestment from Fossil Fuels* §3 add “4. Request the Diocesan Investment Committee to review the Diocesan Investment Policy in line with the National Investment Bodies’ future reports.”.

Motion Showing Amendments 1 & 2

Amendment 1 changes are shown in blue font. Amendment 2 changes are shown in green font.

“Ethical Investment

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- 1. that the investment committee of the diocese only to hold investment funds that apply comprehensive ethical criteria. This would be in keeping with the spirit of the EIAG policies, which recommends that the National Investing Bodies “should ensure that no more than 1% of their portfolio is invested, indirectly, in assets that are or would be inadmissible for direct investment for ethical reasons and that preferably exposure should be some way below this hard limit.”*
- 2. and that the divestment from funds that do not have comprehensive ethical criteria should be completed by December 2024.*

And

Divestment from Fossil Fuels*

Reflecting our commitment to safeguarding the integrity of creation, this Synod asks that the diocese:

- 1. divest by 31 December 2024 from those fossil fuel companies in which it holds direct investments, ~~move promptly towards climate-positive investments~~ increase the proportion of investments in climate-positive companies where doing so is judged likely to deliver positive returns;*
- 2. divest from those investment funds that hold, or are likely to hold, on its behalf investments in fossil fuel companies and if so, divest from the same by 31 December 2024, ~~move promptly towards climate-positive investments~~ increase the proportion of investments in climate-positive companies where doing so is judged likely to deliver positive returns;*
- 3. refrain from investments in ~~fossil fuels~~ Fossil Fuel Companies going forward.*
- 4. request the Diocesan Investment Committee to review the Diocesan Investment Policy in line with the National Investment Bodies’ future reports.*

**Fossil Fuels Company means a company that engages in the exploration, refining, production, sale, or synthetic manufacturing of fossil fuels or fossil fuel by-products. This definition is intended to exclude companies that:*

- merely utilise fossil fuels in their operations;*
- manufacture products, like plastic, that are derived from fossil fuels;*
- are engaged solely in the extraction of non-fuels minerals;*
- are involved in production of nuclear energy.*

Fossil Fuels mean any natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms, often described as hydrocarbons.”