

A summary for sharing...

15 MARCH 2025

Guiding us through the meeting was Bishop Tim Thornton, who is helping Bishop Sophie until she begins her public ministry with us in June.

SAFEGUARDING

Trevor Worsfold (interim Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Scrutiny Group - DSSG) and Sarah Price (Director of Safeguarding) provided updates on the work of the previous year and upcoming developments, giving synod the chance to ask questions and share their observations.

Synod heard that:

- additional DSSG members have been recruited, to provide independent scrutiny and support
- capacity has been increased within the safeguarding team in response to increased demand
- 97% of parishes are live on the safeguarding dashboard
- there are 219 parish safeguarding officers (PSOs) providing a vital role across the diocese
- an **independent safeguarding audit** (INEQE) will take place in July 2026, covering both the diocese and cathedral

Thanks were expressed for the commitment and effort of PSOs, incumbents and all those working for a safe and welcoming church.

REFLECTION ON NATIONAL EVENTS

Synod spent time considering recent events within the Church of England such as the publication of the Makin Report, the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the safeguarding discussions at February's General Synod, reflecting on the impact of these within our parishes and communities.



In small groups, Synod discussed their particular concerns and what they feel needs to happen next.

NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES AND HEALTHY CHURCHES

Revd Jenny Irvine (Director of New Worshipping Communities & Healthy Churches) and Revd Clive Hicks (Healthy Churches Development Enabler) spoke with Synod about the ways in which we can all support and encourage healthy, thriving, new worshipping communities within our own settings.

Synod were asked to consider what we can learn from the new worshipping communities already in place, and also to think about what barriers there might be. Jenny and Clive were grateful to receive the insights and feedback from across the diocese, to inform future work.



ECO DIOCESE

Revd Tim Cockell, Acting Archdeacon Pastor, gave an update on work towards Eco Diocese Silver. The next steps will include developing a glebe land management policy, updating the investment policy and further developing environmental training for a range of audiences.

Synod voted to adopt the updated Environment Policy which affirms our commitment to creation care.

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Information about Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council and our committees can be found on the Diocese of Coventry's [website](#)