



# St Albans Diocesan Synod

**Saturday 11 October 2025**

Putteridge Bury

President: The Bishop of Bedford,  
Acting Bishop of St Albans

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

A meeting of the Diocesan Synod will be held at Putteridge Bury Conference Centre, Hitchin Road, Luton, LU2 8LE on Saturday, 11 October 2025. There is parking within the grounds, but members are encouraged to share cars where possible.

The Session will commence at 0930 and is expected to finish not later than 1600. Coffee will be available from 0900 and a buffet lunch will be provided – please complete the [online form](#) to confirm your attendance and dietary requirements.

Members will be requested to sign an attendance sheet on arrival. Anyone wishing to attend who is not a member must contact Ruth Carl (on [ruth.carl@stalbandsdiocese.org](mailto:ruth.carl@stalbandsdiocese.org) or 01727 818131) in advance so their name can be added to the list of attendees.

If you wish to move any amendment to the specified resolutions, at least 7 days' notice must be given. Any amendment must, therefore, reach the Secretary to the Synod at Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans on or before **Friday 3 October** and it will be circulated among members at the opening of the Synod. If such notice is not given, an amendment may then only be moved under the provisions of Standing Orders 21, 22 and 42 – 48. Standing Orders can be viewed [on our website](#).

David White  
**Diocesan Secretary**  
19 September 2025

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Please refer to the **Diocesan Synod** webpage  
:[stalbandsdiocese.org/about-us/governance/synods-boards-and-committees/diocesan-synod/](http://stalbandsdiocese.org/about-us/governance/synods-boards-and-committees/diocesan-synod/) for copies of Synod Agendas and accompanying paperwork, dates of future Synods and other information

# AGENDA

## 1. PRAYERS

To be led by The Revd Canon Liz Hughes (Luton Airport Chaplain) and Mrs Janna Bond (Lay Reader), Luton Deanery.

## 2. OPENING ADDRESS (the Bishop of Hertford)

## 3. To confirm the MINUTES of the last meeting held on 14 June 2025 (enclosed).

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS & BUSINESS ITEMS

0955

## 5. FORMULA FOR DEANERY SYNOD ELECTIONS 2026

At the request of the Bishop's Council, the following will be moved from the Chair:

"That this Synod agrees to use the formula noted in paper **DS/25/07** for the election of lay representatives from parishes to deanery synods for the elections due in 2026".

## 6. INSPIRATION FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

Three short films introduced by the Archdeacons.

## 7. FEES FOR SSM, PtO AND READERS

With the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Diocesan Director of Finance will introduce this item. There will be an opportunity for questions. Paper **DS/25/08**.

1030

## 8. DIOCESAN BUDGET AND STIPEND LEVELS 2026

With the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Director of Finance will introduce the budget and refer to the film, available in advance. There will be an opportunity for questions. Paper **DS/25/09**.

Dr Tim Coulson, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, will move on behalf of the Board and at the request of the Bishop's Council:

*"That this Synod, noting that the Central Stipends Authority have set the National Stipend Benchmark (NSB) to apply from 1 April 2026 and have invited Dioceses to adopt the NSB for Incumbent Status Clergy, resolves that*

- (i) the stipends for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this diocese should rise by £2,239 (6.84% of £32,711) to £34,950 from 1 April 2026*
- (ii) the stipends for the first three years of curacy should rise by £3,240 (10.76% of £30,110) to £33,350 from 1 April 2026"*

Dr Tim Coulson, Chair of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, will then move:

*"That the estimates of requirements of the Diocesan Common Fund in 2026 in the gross sum of £17,983,017 be approved, and that the Synod authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in accordance therewith a sum not exceeding £17,983.017 and that the sum of £14,057,000 be requested as parochial contributions in 2026, to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme."*

## **9. DIOCESAN FINANCES REVIEW**

With the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Diocesan Secretary will introduce this item. There will be an opportunity for questions. Paper **DS/25/10**.

1115 – 1130 COFFEE

## **10. FUNDING APPLICATION TO THE STRATEGIC MISSION AND MINISTRY INVESTMENT BOARD**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council the Bishop of Hertford will give an update, introduce the current proposal and refer to the film, available in advance. Paper **DS/25/11**. There will be an opportunity for questions.

The Chair will then move ' *That this Synod supports the SMMIB funding bid as set out in Paper DS/25/11* '.

**11. LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH – AN UPDATE**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council the Bishop of Bedford will give a verbal update.

**12. QUESTIONS**

Questions should have been submitted by 26 September, unless the President has given special dispensation to accept shorter notice. Questions received by that date will be circulated as paper **DSQ/25/03**.

1300 – 1400 LUNCH BREAK

**13. PRESENTATION FROM THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council the Bishop of Bedford will introduce this item and with the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Diocesan Director of Education, Duncan Gauld will give a presentation. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

1445

**14. DIOCESAN LINK WITH LINKOPING**

With the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Revd Simon Cutmore, will give a presentation. There will be an opportunity for questions.

1500

**15. MINISTRY STRATEGY – LISTENING TOGETHER: SHAPING MINISTRY IN OUR DIOCESE**

With the Chair's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Deputy Director of Mission and Ministry, will facilitate a condensed version of the listening process being rolled out in deaneries. Paper **DS/25/12**.

Synod should finish no later than 1600.

## **Dates for Synods in 2026**

Saturday 14 March 2026

Saturday 13 June 2026 (online)

Saturday 17 October 2026

Venues to be confirmed