

Summary of a meeting of Lichfield Diocesan Synod, 30th June 2026 at Lichfield Cathedral

- The Dean welcomed all and led opening prayer.
- The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2026 were approved. Bishop Michael raised a matter arising which related to his reference in the minutes to “the Feast of God, the Creator” which would be celebrated on the 1st Sunday in September, pointing out that this was likely to instead be known as the “Feast of Creation in Christ”.
- The Revd Neil Robbie then raised a deemed item on the agenda which he wished Synod to discuss, but at a future meeting. This item related to a West Bromwich Deanery Synod Motion brought to Synod in 2022. He then raised a further matter relating to his question at the previous meeting and asking for an update from the Agenda Planning Committee on openness and transparency, particularly relating to another West Bromwich motion that had been submitted. The Diocesan Secretary would provide an answer to this outside the meeting.
- Bishop Michael then gave his final presidential address, after ten years of leadership, expressing gratitude for the shared challenges and blessings experienced across the decade. He reflected on the history of synodical governance and pioneering figures in this diocese such as Bishop George Augustus Selwyn who had convened a meeting of clergy and laity in the Cathedral in 1868. Another central theme of the address was the importance of our international diocesan partnerships which were rooted mutuality, reciprocity, and shared mission, where both sides gave and received. These partnerships strengthened the Church’s identity as part of a global Christian community and enriched local ministry. He stressed that this principle of mutual support should extend across all aspects of diocesan life—finances, ministry between clergy and laity, theological diversity, and Synod discussions. Healthy church life depended on listening to differing perspectives and working together to discern God’s will. Reflecting on recent visits to partner dioceses, he shared how these encounters had reinforced the value of shared learning and collaboration, and connected this vision to Christian teaching, particularly the call to live in harmony, support one another, and build each other up in faith. He concluded with appreciation for the welcome received over the past decade and prayed “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
- The Strategy Programme Director then introduced a paper about our international diocesan links with dioceses in Germany, Canada, South Africa, Pakistan and Ireland. He then moved the following motion:

“This Synod, recognising that the Diocese of Lichfield is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion:

celebrates the many links of friendship, co-operation and prayer which our churches enjoy around the world; affirms in particular the companionship links we have formed with the Diocese of Qu’Appelle, the Diocese of Matlosane, the Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Norddeutschland, the United Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross, and the Diocese of Hyderabad (Pakistan); and commits to further exploration and development of the contributions which our links can make to the diocesan strategy ‘Seeking the Kingdom’.”

There were no questions and the motion was unanimously carried by a vote.

- The Question Time paper was discussed, which contained ten written questions and answers. Several supplementary questions were answered.

- The Annual General Meeting of the DBF was opening by the Deputy Chair, the Revd Jim Trood. He made opening comments including thanking the whole finance team and also the Revd Terry Bloor, his predecessor as Deputy Chair who was soon to retire.
- The Finance Director presented the Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2025. He then answered questions and moved the following motion:

“The Summary Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Diocesan Board of Finance for the year ending 31st December 2025 be received”.

This was unanimously carried.

- Annual Reports of the following Committees were introduced and were received by Synod:
 - i. Lichfield Diocesan Safeguarding Scrutiny Panel – Liz Jermy
 - ii. Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) – Phillip Johnson
 - iii. Parsonages Board (Property Operations) – The Archdeacon of Stoke
 - iv. Diocesan Board of Education Committee (DBE) – The Bishop of Stafford
 - v. Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) – The Bishop of Lichfield
- The Dean led synod in its farewell to Bishop Michael at his final Diocesan Synod after ten years and around 30 meetings. Bishop Michael was warmly thanked for his leadership and service, and the tribute highlighted his belief that strong governance enabled effective mission and ministry, praising his wisdom, patience, and commitment to accountability, transparency, and good stewardship. His ability to balance good governance with pastoral care, his respectful and thoughtful leadership of Synod, and his lasting contribution to the flourishing and mission of the diocese was also much valued and would be missed. Synod then sang “Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided”.
- Bishop Michael warmly thanked members for their fellowship over the last decade, before closing the meeting in prayer.

All papers and presentations are available by visiting this web page and clicking on the relevant meeting link, or by contacting jo.durber@lichfield.anglican.org or 01543 306067.