

BISHOP'S COUNCIL REPORT TO DIOCESAN SYNOD
SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2026

Since the last Synod meeting on 22 November, there has been one meeting of the Bishop's Council, on 2 February.

As well as the standing items on the agenda, including Safeguarding Report, Bishop Pete's report to Council, Minutes and Matters Arising and Finance update, this meeting focussed on governance matters, including:

1. Risk Register, a full quarterly review had been carried out with risk owners in this quarter and reviewed by the Finance and Property Committee as well as Bishop's Council. Key risks centred around safeguarding, finance (both in terms of unbudgeted financial commitments and income (parishes unable to meet Common Fund pledges)) and inability to recruit clergy to oversight minister roles.
2. Bishop's Council Away Day follow-up, including structured agenda setting and work on the Charity Governance Code's eight principles of:
 - a. Foundational principles
 - b. Organisational purposes
 - c. Leadership
 - d. Ethics and culture
 - e. Decision making
 - f. Managing Resources and Risk
 - g. Equity, diversity and inclusion
 - h. Board effectiveness
3. Elizabeth Lunt was appointed as Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer for the General Synod elections taking place later in 2026. Katie Bell will be the Presiding Officer.
4. Vacancy in See Committee – Council noted that the Committee has a number of vacancies. It was agreed that once the General Synod elections have taken place and the ex-officio places filled, elections would be held to fill any remaining places on the Vacancy in See Committee for the remainder of the current term to 2027.