

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING MAY 2026

Report to APCM May 2026 on work with Children, Young People and Families

On Fridays in term time we run a children and carers group, Jimmy Tots, for children, from birth until the start of school, and their carers. Children enjoy free play, craft, singing and outdoor play, as well as a snack time. Numbers had been small but recently we have seen a number of new children joining us.

Most Sundays we run Kids Church during the middle part of the 10.30 service at St James. The children go into Church House where they hear a Bible story, and enjoy craft, singing, and games linked to that story. Numbers and ages vary from week to week.

Once a month we hold Messy Church on a Saturday morning. Families take part in craft activities around a theme which is reinforced in our celebration time at the end. The majority of children attending are of primary school age but some younger children come along and older children are invited to become part of the team as young helpers.

Twice each week we visit schools for Open the Book. This is a Bible storytelling initiative aimed at bringing the Bible to life for children including those who would not hear these stories otherwise. We see year 3 at Widney, and Key stage 1 at Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James (TGPA) . In addition at TGPA we run a weekly lunchtime club – Bible Art where we explore a Bible story and do some related craft.

At the end of every half term all the children from TGPA come into church for a service which the Chaplaincy team help to lead. Richard also leads in school Collective Worship .

We continue to run our Journeys to which we invite the year one children from parish schools at Christmas, and year 5 at Easter. The children watch drama and take part in associated activities. Almost 1000 children came to one or other journey during the year.

Richard has also led regular acts of Collective Worship in St James School, usually once a month. He leads assemblies at Woodlands School once or twice each half term, and at Cranmore School once a term on themes such as Harvest, Christingle, and Easter. In addition, he has led Harvest and Easter services in church for St James and Woodlands, Harvest and Easter assemblies at Kingswood School, and a Christingle service at Widney School.

Pupils from Hazel Oak school visit the Welcome café and once they feel comfortable with the surroundings help with orders and clearing tables.

Year 7 pupils from Light Hall school visited to learn about Lent and Holy week. Richard and Rich were asked to visit the school to talk to GCSE pupils about same sex marriage.

We have been visited by 2nd Monkspath Scouts and Beavers as part of their ‘my faith’ badge.

All of this is only possible because a large number of people volunteer to be part of these activities, in many cases loyally turning up every week to give their time. Thank you so much.

Sarah and Richard

Shirley Churches Together Report

Shirley Churches Together brings together leaders from our parish, Shirley Methodist Church, Our Lady of the Wayside (Roman Catholic), and The Whole Christian Fellowship. Since the retirement of Revd Paul Day in August 2025, the group has been without an appointed Chair. During this period, Revd Richard Haynes has provided coordination to ensure our shared witness continues wherever possible.

This year has been shaped by a number of challenges within the leadership teams of some member churches. As a result, our usual rhythm of fortnightly prayer meetings and quarterly in-person gatherings has been temporarily suspended. These circumstances also meant that we were unable to host our usual Advent carol singing at ASDA or hold a united service for Christian Unity Week in January.

Despite these limitations, we were able to coordinate the Good Friday Walk of Witness, which brought together around 250 people from across the churches and wider community. It was once again a powerful and visible expression of Christian unity in Shirley.

Our commitment to leading worship at Solihull Village continues to be honoured by ministers from across the partnership, although two churches have had to withdraw due to issues with parking charges! Even so, we have maintained weekly coverage, with some churches taking on additional services ensure continuity.

Looking ahead, the leadership teams of the member churches are gradually returning to a more settled pattern of ministry. We hope to meet soon to review the future of Shirley Churches Together and to discern how best to rebuild our shared life, prayer, and witness in the coming year.

Rev'd Richard Haynes

Mothers' Union Annual Report - January, 2026

Our membership as at the 31st December, 2025 stands at 38 on roll having enrolled four new members – Pauline Pedersen, Peggy Edensor, Dorothy Needle and Myra Taylor. Our average attendance is 20 members but we have a few people who regularly attend who are not members and we are always pleased to welcome them. Sadly two of our members passed away last year, Eleanor Green and Sandra Batten, both long standing members.

Our 2025 programme commenced on the 5th March - Ash Wednesday, Rev. Richard led this meeting for the beginning of Lent.

Jo Roberts demonstrated how to make a hanging basket at our next meeting, she made it look so easy and very generously donated the basket for a raffle prize which Rev. Wendy won. In May Rev Rich Brooker gave us an insight into his work as a Police Chaplain. Our June illustrated talk was about the Heroes and Heroines of the RNLi by Lorraine and Paul Hoskins. In July Rev Kathy Lloyd-Roberts continued to entertain us following her talk from 2024 'How I became a Vicar'.

In August, we enjoyed what has now become our Summer Social afternoon by having a cream tea. In September Kate Crocker spoke to us about her Life as a GP and in October, Mary Bodfish gave us a very interesting illustrated talk 'Lest we forget'.

November has become our Craft Session supervised by Jan Dalton. I am always amazed how much time and effort Jan puts into this. Everything came in its own little bag, pieces of card that magically, transformed, under instruction and with glue and glitter became a lovely gift tag and a Father Christmas. My daughter actually said 'You made that?'

Our Advent Service took place in Church on the 3rd December presided over by Rev Theresa and Rev Wendy and we welcomed Myra as our newest member. This was followed by refreshments.

The Committee would like to specially thank Jenny Tyler for decorating the Mothers' Union Christmas tree for the festival, winning first prize. The Committee would especially like to thank Rev. Richard for his much appreciated support and enthusiasm for the our Branch of the Mothers' Union.

Liz Yates

Report of the Friends of St James, Shirley for the Annual Church Meeting 2026

The year has been another of steady fundraising, the usual events having been held – Coffee Mornings and Bric a Brac, a Christmas by Candlelight Dinner, the Shirley Band Concert in Church and the Jigsaw and Book Sales, along with two additional events – the small but successful Tombola at St. John's and the Harvest Supper.

These events have provided about three fifths of the funds raised in the year, while the 100 Club, Book and Cake sales have maintained a regular income. We have also received substantial donations of £695, for which we are very grateful.

Other than our 100 Club prizes, we have only paid out for one expense this year. Regrettably, Lloyds Bank have decided that they are no longer prepared to subsidise charities and have started to make charges for looking after our money!

We were in a good position to make contributions to the Church Pod & Lobby Project and towards the replacement of Church heating. The sum of £850 for woodworm treatment brought our giving to £18,850.

Although our programme for the next year has yet to be completed, it will include many of the occasions successfully accomplished this year and we will be very grateful for any support that can be given for the events arranged. Please also consider joining the 100 Club, whose members have gradually declined in number.

As ever, I thank my fellow 'Friends' and our band of "occasional" helpers for the time they give and for their ongoing commitment to the various fundraising activities.

Gordon Bragg
15.04.26

Parochial Annual Safeguarding Report

May 2026

Safeguarding

Two safeguarding incidents were reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator in the period since the previous report, May 2025.

The number of volunteers requiring training and / or DBS checks has reduced slightly from 57 to 52 in the last year.

Training

In the last year the Safeguarding Team have become more involved in supporting volunteers in completing the required safeguarding modules due to the CoE approach of online delivery. The lack of suitable devices and navigating the learning platform are frequent issues. This slows progress, increases the need for support and often results in frustration culminating in a desire not to complete the training, creating a barrier to volunteering.

Feedback from volunteers is that group sessions are overwhelmingly the preferred way to undertake the training although we are still awaiting the new training videos for this form of delivery. The latest availability is expected to be May 2026.

In the meantime, the Safeguarding Team delivered a Domestic Abuse (DA) course, in September 2025, using the CoE Training Portal. Ten volunteers attended. The Team however, felt this was not ideal but there is no alternative. Another DA course will be delivered on 22nd April 2026 with approximately the same numbers attending.

Current Parish Safeguarding Training Position by Level

Level	Identified	Current	Outstanding
Awareness	1	1	0
Foundation	48	46	2
Domestic Abuse	21	21	0
Domestic Abuse (new requirements) *	21	0	21
Leadership	3	3	0

* On 1st January 2025 new rules came into effect regarding the criteria for volunteers required to undertake the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse module. A major change, is for everyone who currently works with children, young people, vulnerable adults and families with children, is to complete the module. This significantly increases the number of volunteers requiring training and the Diocese have advised Parishes this training should be completed as soon as is practically possible, and before 31st December 2027. We expect to have completed the necessary training by the end of 2026.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

All those required to have a DBS check, a population of eighteen volunteers, have current certificates.

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard

The Parish remains at Level 3, the highest category, and meets 99% of the mandatory requirements.

The current and previous status of compliance can be seen in the table below. Green brings reassurance that all is well; amber means that action is needed, and red means it is urgent.

	Policies and Action Plan	Safeguarding Procedures	Safeguarding Roles	Train. for Key Roles	Learning and Devel.	Display. Info.	Church Activities	Non-Church Activities	Reviews and Reports
April 2025	●	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●
April 2026	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a	✓	●	n/a	✓

The one category at red is due to one outstanding risk assessment.

The Learning and Development section is no longer applicable as it has been withdrawn during the last year due to its elements being duplicated in other sections.

There are no longer any Non-Church Activities which need to be reported.

The dashboard report does however indicate the PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure (2016) to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding Hub Dashboard

	Role Creator	People Manager	Recruitment Tracker	Dashboard Updater
April 2025	✓	●	Not utilising	Not utilising
April 2026	✓	●	Not utilising	Not utilising

People Manager is at red due to two volunteers who need to renew their Foundation modules.

There are 17 roles in the Parish and 52 volunteers who meet the criteria for recording activities.

Prepared by Susan Harries and Judith Chivers

Growth and Discipleship

Start Group

This group has met monthly, led by Gill Gough, up until Lent, with a continued focus on learning from the Bible, from prayer and from each other's reflections on life and faith. The Beatitudes were studied between September and February with the group meeting on a monthly basis. A five session course was followed entitled LIFE ATTITUDES.

There were 7 people who met each month and enjoyed the course but felt it would have been better if the meetings had been twice monthly. The intention is to start again in the summer but the theme has not been chosen yet. This will be an open invitation to the whole Parish.

Monthly Discussion Group

Our Monthly Discussion Group continued to meet on the first Wednesday of each month, offering an evening space particularly suited to those who are out at work during the day. We are very grateful to one of the group members for generously hosting us in their home, especially as the group had previously met in the former, de facto, vicarage. The change of venue meant that not everyone was able to continue attending, but those who could join us enjoyed a wide-ranging and thoughtful mix of conversation connecting faith, life, church and the world around us.

We are especially thankful to Revd Lynn Busfield, who joined the group and helped facilitate several of the sessions. The wisdom, humour, and openness of all who attend, has made these evenings a place of genuine fellowship, spiritual growth and shared learning. The group continues to be a valued part of our parish's discipleship life.

Lent Conversations

Our Lent Conversations this year followed the Church of England's national theme "**Draw Near**", which also shaped our Sunday preaching across the parish. Sessions were held on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons over five weeks, concluding before Holy Week, and were led by different members of the ministry team: Denise, Gill, Lynn, Sarah and Theresa with material prepared initially by Lynn and then by Richard.

The groups offered space for reflection, sharing, and gentle theological exploration. Attendance was healthy throughout, and there was a rich exchange of wisdom and experience among those who took part. The series was well received and continues to affirm the value of gathering together at Lent for Exploration and growing in faith.

Bible Study Morning on Matthew's Gospel

In January we held a Saturday morning Bible Study in Church House, led by Richard, which focussed on Matthew's Gospel, the primary gospel for this lectionary year. The session explored the distinctive themes, structure, and theological emphases of Matthew, offering guidance on what to listen for in the Sunday readings and how the gospel shapes our preaching through the year; and there was the encouragement to read it in its entirety! The format was more lecture-style with input than group discussion, allowing us to cover a greater breadth of material and to engage more deeply with the theology of the text rather than individual passages and responses. Feedback from those who attended was overwhelmingly positive, and there is clear appetite for further study mornings of this kind. I therefore hope to offer another similar session in the near future.

Rev'd Richard Haynes

Events Committee report for the 2026 APCM

There are many activities that take place in the Parish – in addition to the worship services - and the aim of the Events Committee is to oversee and coordinate all these events, for both church members and for the wider community. We work with the appropriate people/groups across the Parish to ensure that events

have the help, support and resources that they need as well as being directly involved in some of them. It's not all about fund raising – growth, support, fellowship and service are just as important.

The committee meets four times a year plus on an ad-hoc basis if needed. Members of the committee are the Vicar/Curate, Linda Alford, Shirley Beedon, Jan Dalton, Glenys Golightly, Gill Gough, Gill Hanton, Denise Smith and Liz Yates.

An Events Plan for the year is regularly updated and circulated.

We are so grateful for all those who volunteer in the Parish and for all their hard work and commitment to these activities.

The current regular activities in the Parish (in addition to the 'Friends of St James' events) are -

Second Monday – Coffee Morning at St John's Church

Third Monday – Nordic (or not) Walking

Every Tuesday – Welcome Café (an official 'Place of Welcome') – including some charity fundraising events

Alternate Tuesdays – Craft Club

Every Wednesday – Churchyard Working Party

Alternate Wednesdays – Ploughman's Lunch

First Wednesday – Mothers' Union

Fridays in termtime – Jimmy Tots

Every Monday evening – Parish Prayers

Monthly – Book Club

Open the Book/Bible Art/Easter Journey/Journey to the Stable with local schools

Quarterly - services for the Home Communion Community

(the Sunday Lunch/Afternoon Tea Club met regularly until January 2026)

Since the last APCM we have also held (in addition to the events organised by the 'Friends of St James') –

May – Centenary Fete at St John's

July – Organ Recital by Harry Brown

October – Eco Group Green Fair

October – Baby loss service

November – Refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday parade

December – Memorial Service

December – Christmas Tree Festival

January – Bible Study on Matthew

Gill Hanton – April 2026

Deputy Warden Report for Christ the King.

It was with a heavy heart that we took the decision to close Christ the King after worshipping in Widney Junior School for 40 years, but with 3 clergy members leaving and falling numbers it was felt the right time

to close and give thanks for all we had achieved and leave with a very special Christ the King style service where everyone got the chance to share a memory of their time there.

We looked back and remembered how it was the first walk of witness started from Christ the King meeting up with Our Lady of the Wayside and then walking down the Stratford Road to the Baptist church. How successful and popular over the years it had become. Our Saturday morning praise service in a tent in the entrance to Shirley Park, how we used to have a proper church band, a small choir and a large Sunday school which was known as Sunday Funday with Jesus.

Lots and lots of other memories too of meals out, Sunday afternoon strolls by the canals, youth club outings to Bradgate Park in Leeds, family coach trips to London, our confirmation service at Christ the King which resulted in a group of us arriving early on that morning to shovel the snow so the Bishop could get through the un-gritted Clifton Crescent and school playground, that year it was really deep snow too. Lots of tears were shed that morning both happy and sad.

To mark our service of 40 years we are going to plant an olive tree at St James in the place recommended by Paul Day before he retired. We have already got the olive tree and the plaque and they were blessed on the Sunday celebrating Christ the King in November. It will be planted once the Diocesan Office have given the approval, hopefully in May some time.

From Denise Smith former Deputy Warden for Christ the King.

St James's Deputy Warden Report for Shirley Parish AGM May 2026

Repairs and Maintenance

Church

Routine maintenance is up to date.

Woodworm was found in the tower and treated in January. Mr Jelley will repair three corroded, cracked drainpipes reported in the Quinquennial Inspection when the weather is favourable. Both of these repairs have been paid for by the Friends.

The organ is at risk of failing because of worn bellows. The quote from Nicholsons was close to £35K , including VAT, which is no longer recoverable following the discontinuation of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. We will obtain other quotes but this presents a formidable challenge.

It is now some years since the church choir disbanded and the PCC has approved disposing of some of the robes and music to make storage space for Messy Church.

Church House

Routine maintenance is up to date and no major repairs have been needed.

Churchyard

With help from the team from Newlands Bishop Farm, we have managed to keep the churchyard mown (with areas left for nature to thrive) and the gardening team has worked hard keeping flower borders and

paths tidy and trimming bushes. We are very fortunate to have such a skilled and enthusiastic team....Thank you all.

Our trees suffered in the heat of Summer 2025 but generally are in good condition. David Lukeman took a look at them in November and advised some work on the row of limes which border the post office site. These have not been trimmed recently and have a lot of dead wood. The work this year will cost £2220.

We are awaiting permission from the Diocese to plant a young olive tree in the lawn in front of the church porch to commemorate Christ the King's 40 years of mission.

Projects

The Pod

The toilet and kitchenette are now a year old and it is hard to imagine how we managed without them! They have made the building so much more welcoming and practical and the design has harmonized with the church very well.

Heating

The new electric heating was installed in mid-November 2025. The gas boiler was disconnected in December and the supply has now been removed. It works quite differently to gas central heating and managing it has been a steep learning curve.

There is a cold spot in front of the pod in the south transept and the chandeliers over the altar are not adequate in very cold weather. We are working on solutions for these glitches and on draught reduction-very necessary in a Victorian building!

In the first 3 months of use, we spent £1060 less on energy with the new system but energy costs may rise steeply because of the war in the Gulf.

Future Needs

Delivering 2 big projects in the same year has been expensive and stressful, but we have problems pending with Church House, a much loved but rather unlovely building. The guttering, louvres (in the roof) pointing, entrance door and office door are in poor condition and much of the interior is shabby. We are looking at options to tackle this.

Health and Safety

We have been concerned for some time about the safety of lone workers and church lockers up, together with security of the church and office buildings. This was underlined by another attempted break-in to the Sacristy and forcing of the pod door and the incident at Our Lady of the Wayside last year. We have installed CCTV cameras to cover the office entrance, main entrance to Church House, car park and Church porch. There are no cameras in the church. The installation and operation are in line with best practice as set out in the CofE policy for security camera use.

War Memorial

After discussion with the Royal British Legion, the war memorial fund has been transferred to the Parish accounts (as a restricted fund) because the banks no longer operate simple 'Treasurer Accounts' and had started to charge interest.

Many Thanks to Gill, Linda and Emily for their support and encouragement and to the Friends of St James for their generous help with the projects and to all the people who have helped with the many and different jobs needed to keep our building and land in good shape.

Kate Crocker – Deputy Warden St James.

Report to the 2026 APCM from St John the Divine, Tidbury Green

Our Centenary Celebrations in May 2025 were a real 'wow' moment and will live long in the memories. We are very thankful for all those that came and all those that supported us in any way. It was lovely to welcome some old friends back for the events. The attendance of the Bishop of Birmingham and our local MP and the feedback and publicity that they gave us was also much appreciated.

Tidbury Green Nursery also celebrated their fortieth anniversary last year, and we continue to work with them with seasonal activities for the children in the church. They also use the church for their plays and various meetings.

Creators Theatre Company and Peterbrook Players regularly use the church for rehearsals prior to their shows at the Core Theatre.

We enjoy celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries and we had a special service for Sue and Howard Barnard's Diamond Wedding in June.

Since Paul and Kate Day's retirement at the end of August we have been having two services a month, Holy Communion on the second Sunday and Morning Worship on the fourth Sunday but our congregation have remained faithful and some of them also attend the services at St James Church on the other Sundays. We hosted the Parish's Easter Vigil in the garden on Easter Saturday.

We continue to welcome lots of Parishioners (and some new faces) to our monthly Coffee Mornings on the second Monday of the month (when the nursery is closed so we are able to use the car park) where we enjoy cakes, raffles and good company. We participated in the Parish Christmas Tree Festival last December and we held 'Tea at the Ritz' in Church House in February (for the first time since Covid) and received good feedback from those that attended.

In the grounds, Simon Marshall keeps the grass looking good, work has been done on the trees that were diseased and/or potentially dangerous, and the security lights have been fixed. Inside the routine checks on the electrics/appliances and the fire extinguishers have been completed. Five of us are on a rota for cleaning the church.

We extend our thanks to our ministry team and to all our volunteers for everything that they do.

Linda Alford – Deputy Warden – April 2026

Deanery Synod

The four elected representatives to Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery Synod are Denise Smith, Gill Gough, Margaret Foreshe, and Revd Richard Haynes. During the past year the Deanery Synod met three times: 18 June 2025, 15 October 2025, and 28 February 2026. Below is a summary of the main items from these meetings.

June 2025 Meeting

This meeting focused on climate change and environmental responsibility. Members engaged with presentations on global population, waste production, and carbon impact, followed by discussion on how churches can reduce their environmental footprint. The work of Eco Church was highlighted, including our achievement of the Silver Award, with thanks expressed to those who led this work.

October 2025 Meeting

The main item was the announcement of the £17.8 million national funding **award** granted to the Diocese of Birmingham in July 2025. Bishop Michael's letter was discussed, outlining how this investment will support the next stage of diocesan strategy. Four themes were emphasised:

1. **Sustainability** – restoring financial stability
2. **Leadership** – identifying and forming future leaders
3. **Parish Growth** – supporting every parish and oversight area to flourish
4. **Revitalisation and Church Planting** – renewing existing congregations and establishing new ones

Group conversations explored what this funding might mean for local parishes and what questions should be passed to the diocesan Executive Board as the allocation process continues. The meeting closed with prayer.

February 2026 Meeting

The February meeting was held at Hawkesley Church Primary Academy and opened with worship led by the Area Dean. Key items included:

- **Deanery roles:** Ongoing vacancies for Deanery Secretary and Treasurer were noted, with thanks given to those stepping down after long service. A volunteer has since come forward to explore the Secretary role.
- **Main presentation:** Revd Canon Barrie Scott, Deputy Director of Education, spoke on *“Birmingham C of E Schools, the Kingdom of God and the Local Church.”* He outlined the history and purpose of Church of England schools, the current diocesan education landscape, and the importance of building strong, resilient relationships between parishes and their local schools.
- **Discussion groups:** Members reflected on how churches can better support their schools, the importance of maintaining relationships through leadership changes, and opportunities for parish involvement, including school governance.

- **Environmental update:** The Deanery Environmental Champion shared new tools and grant opportunities to support parish decarbonisation work.
- **Vacancies:** Six parishes in the deanery are currently in vacancy; recruitment processes are underway, supported by the Archdeacon.
- **National funding:** Early signs of how the £17.8m grant is beginning to be applied across the diocese were noted.

Synod will next meet on:

- 17 June 2026
- 21 October 2026

Rev'd Richard Haynes

Diocesan Synod Report

During the past year, Synod met three times: 28 June 2025, 15 November 2025, and 14 March 2026. Below is a summary of the key themes and decisions from these meetings.

June 2025 Meeting

The June session focused primarily on finance and safeguarding. Synod received the Annual Finance Report for 2024, noting an operating deficit of £1.455m and the continuing financial pressures facing the diocese. Safeguarding updates were presented, including the implementation of IICSA recommendations and the restructuring of the diocesan safeguarding team. Synod also noted an increase in safeguarding referrals over the previous year.

November 2025 Meeting

Bishop Michael opened the November meeting with a wide-ranging Presidential Address, reflecting on our identity as followers of Christ, the mission of the Church, the challenges of our current context, and our shared diocesan vision of “growing churches and flourishing schools.”

Synod received updates on:

- Clergy wellbeing initiatives
- General Synod business
- Strategic planning and governance
- The West Midlands Regional Racial Justice Survey

The 2026 Diocesan Budget was presented and approved, outlining significant changes to national funding arrangements, including the news of a successful £17 Million grant, a 13.2% stipend uplift to bring Birmingham in line with national benchmarks, and the introduction of new sustainability funding streams. Although expenditure continues to exceed income, the new funding mechanisms provide some stability for the coming years.

Synod debated a proposed amendment to the formula used to allocate lay representatives to Deanery Synods. The amendment would have increased representation for larger parishes. Before debate began, a point of order was raised requesting that Synod move to the next item of business due to the complexity of

the issue and limited time available. After further procedural points, Synod voted to accept the point of order. As a result, the proposed amendments were not discussed or voted on, and the **existing representation model remains in place for the next three-year cycle**. This outcome aligns with the position I had indicated to the PCC in advance and met with approval.

March 2026 Meeting

The March meeting at Christ Church, Quinton, and substantial part of the morning was devoted to interfaith relations, with guided conversations on how parishes engage with people of other faiths in their local contexts.

Synod then considered a motion from Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery calling for greater transparency and wider involvement in shaping future diocesan funding bids to the National Church Institutions. After debate, Synod accepted point 1 of the motion and agreed an amended version of point 2, ensuring Bishop's Council retains oversight while establishing a working group to improve transparency. *For the record, I voted to accept the original motion and the final amended version.*

Future Meetings

Synod will next meet on:

- 27 June 2026
- 21 November 2026

Revd Richard Haynes