

Diocesan Synod Report to Stroud Deanery Synod - October 2023

The Diocesan Synod met on the evening of 12th July and there were three main items on the agenda.

Diocesan Board of Education Report

This report covered:

- The continuing development of the Jumping Fish publications initiative
- Work on how Christian Distinctiveness is expressed in our schools, including support for RE and collective worship and positive relationships with other faith groups
- Leavers services held at the cathedral
- Training and Courses being offered
- Outcomes of SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) visits to 18 schools which had produced 12 good and 6 excellent ratings
- Building projects
- Governance Strategy and support

Thanks were given to Jo Hunter for her time as Interim Director of Education. Jane Borgeaud, the new Director of Education took up her post at the beginning of September.

Annual Report and Accounts

These were presented by Lisa Gardner the Director of Finance, Property and Giving.

The Accounts had an unqualified audit report with no control issues identified. Key areas were:

- Valuation of Leckhampton site and the glebe portfolio
- Handling the DBE as its changed its organisational status
- Management of funds

Key points from the accounts were:

- Fall in investment assets was higher than expected but there is a clear reason for this
- Creditors are reducing
- Increased funds that were previously held as housing stock

In response to a request from the floor, it was agreed to provide a lay person's guide to the key points, and this is awaited.

General Synod

A report was given by General Synod members on the session that had taken place over the previous five days. This is covered in the separate report to Deanery Synod..

Canon Margaret Sheather
Lay Chair