Deanery Synod Report 2025

There have been two Odiham Deanery Synod meetings in the last year: 27th March 2025 and the 25th November 2025.

The meeting in March looked at the Diocesan finances, focusing on the Diocesan Finance Briefing paper and this was explained by Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney and Cathy Laird. Elspeth is the Chair of the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance and Cathy is the Assistant Diocesan Secretary (Operations and Finance). The challenges faced by the Diocese are faced by all Dioceses in the country.

The costs and figures were very illuminating. Diocesan income is 78% from parishes with 70% of expenditure on ministry. The cost of one clergy post is around £75K per year. This figure covers stipend, pension and other expenses. Elspeth welcomed feedback from individuals and PCCs. She set out a series of questions which she wanted answered.

It was reported that £1,000 had been collected for Bishop David's leaving gift.

The meeting in November welcomed Bishop Kelly, the new Bishop of Basingstoke. She was interviewed by Rev. Angie Smith. After this she answered questions from the audience. Each parish then gave a potted history of their parish for Bishop Kelly.

A review of the Diocesan Finances was given by David Collier. He explained feedback to the questions asked in the March meeting.