

AGENDA

Hadleigh Deanery Synod
Wednesday 11th February 2026, 19:30 (Refreshments from 19:00)
St Barnabas Church, Hadleigh, SS7 2EJ



1. Welcome and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of meeting of previous meeting (14th October 2025)
4. Matters Arising (not appearing elsewhere on the agenda)
 - 4.1. Resources audit update
 - 4.2. MOF Bid success - next steps
 - 4.3. MOF Bid - Deanery youth event
 - 4.4. 2025 Parish Share - thanks to all who aspired to pay as much as was feasible!
(See Appendix 1)
5. Finance
 - 5.1. Deanery finance report
 - 5.2. Proposal to amend the Bank Mandate
 - 5.2.1. Remove: Judith Wiseman, Ron McLernon, David Tudor
 - 5.2.2. Add: David Wylie, Peter Hillman, Lindsey Rye
 - 5.3. 2026 Parish Share (See Appendix 1)
6. Deanery news
 - 6.1. New Parish grouping for St Margaret's, St David's and St Mary's led by Fr David Wylie with a new Associate Priest.
 - 6.2. At the Annual Parochial Church Meetings this year every parish will elect new lay representatives to all Deanery Synods.
7. Diocesan & General Synod updates - (See Appendix 2)
 - 7.1. LLF Statement from the House of Bishops - <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/bishops-statement-jan-2026-final.pdf>
8. Questions for Diocesan Synod?
9. Wellbeing
10. Safeguarding
 - 4.4.11. Any requirements for in person training?
 - 4.4.12. Consider conducting a Parish Safeguarding Audit (in anticipation of Diocesan Safeguarding Audit this year) - https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/parish-quality-assurance-framework-self-audit-tool_0.xlsx
11. Vocations -
12. Any other business - to either Joint Chair by 8th February
13. Dates and venues of future meetings
Standing Committee dates
 - Fri 17 Apr 2025 - 20 Lambeth Road, Benfleet
 - Fri 5 Jun 2025 - St Margaret's vestry

- Fri 11 Sep 2025 - St Margaret's vestry

Deanery Synods

“This Synod encourages members to invite relevant individuals from their Parish to attend Synod as welcome guests (guests may not vote) where the topic for discussion is likely to be of relevance and interest. Guests may be signed in as such on arrival.”

- Wed 11 Feb 2026 - St. Barnabas
- Thu 14 May 2026 - St George's (TBC) - Theme (TBC)
- Tue 14 July 2026 - St Clement's (TBC) - Youth Ministry
- Wed 14 October 2025 - St James the Great (TBC) - Theme TBC

15. Closing prayer and blessing

Appendix 1 - Full year payment figures 2025 with 2026 allocation

Parish	2025 Paid (@ December 25)	%	2026 allocated
Canvey Island	54,000	76	69,603
St David	30,000	83	34,840
St Laurence	45,021	100	45,504
St Barnabas	47,689	100	48,100
St James the Less	28,000	72	39,040
St Clement	96,711	100	101,639
St Aidan	45,021	100	45,504
St James the Great	40,000	64	64,823
St Margaret	48,750	49	102,575
St George	51,045	100	52,810
St Mary	11,000	29	37,635
Thundersley	51,045	99	49,574

Appendix 2 - July General Synod Report

General Synod sat from 11-15th July at the University of York. Inevitably the Archbishop of York's opening address made mention of the appointment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury and the importance of that person being a theological and spiritual leader. He also made reference to the 'Quiet Revival' and the importance of the church's narrative of what it means to be human.

Much of the focus of these sessions was related to Church of England spending plans in different areas:

A recent campaign regarding the poverty experienced in retirement by changes to clergy pensions led to a proposal to return these to 2/3 of national minimum stipend. While this campaign was gathering momentum, there was already work being done as set out below in this area

The Triennium Fund Working Group set out budget plans for the next three years, including measures to improve clergy wellbeing including increase to stipends (and pensions, as above), support for those in training and an improvement in choices for retirement housing. Additional funding was also included for Lowest Income Communities, supporting the CofE Vision & Strategy plans, and ongoing funding (although at a lower level) for Racial and Social Justice work and working towards Net Zero Carbon. While it was felt by

some that they would like to see more money available for their particular area, the planned spending came to £1.6 billion (between 2026-28), an increase of 30% from the previous triennium. It is also important to note a significant increase in funds going back into dioceses to support parish ministry.

Some key legislative business included the final drafting and approval of the National Redress Scheme for victims and survivors of church related abuse, and the National Church Governance Measure, which will streamline the National Church Institutions from seven to three. Following an address by a member of the armed forces, legislation was also brought to change the way in which army chaplains are licensed. Currently it is done by the bishop of the diocese in which they are living, which does not relate well to the reality of chaplains moving regularly. By being licensed by the Archbishop of Canterbury for work across the CofE chaplains can work effectively without interruption.

Church Representation Rules governing the election of laity, clergy and bishops for the upcoming General Synod elections in 2026 were agreed. In liturgical business – the first piece of this quinquennium – changes that would allow two new key dates to be added to the calendar: the festival of God the Creator and the Commemoration of the Twenty-One Martyrs of Libya. This was the first reading.

The Archbishop's Council Report made mention of some of the challenges of the last year, including the Makin Report and the ongoing, but drawn-out work on Living in Love and Faith.

Our guest from the Anglican Communion was Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem, who spoke of what it means to be church in the midst of war and his desire for peace and reconciliation.

A private members motion calling for the scrapping of the document 'Issues in Human Sexuality' finally came to the agenda. This document, produced in 1991 has long been of concern, both for the way it has been used in more recent times, which is not how it was initially intended. It is also a document which reflects its age, using terminology long since retired. Members from across the chamber were happy to vote for an end to this document, with already existing guidance on clergy conduct taking its place for the near future.

Our final piece of business was a Response to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill) which was presented by the Bishop of London. Concerns were voiced across the chamber along with proposals that work should be done on palliative care to make sure this is the best possible offering.

Farewells included Bishop Paul Baines, Bishop of Leeds and Bishop Viv Faull, Bishop of Bristol, making special mention of her pioneering role in women's ministry throughout each of the posts she has been appointed to.

While it was not on the July agenda, work on Living in Love and Faith continues with a suggested timeline of proposals being brought to Synod in February 2026.

It has been confirmed that Synod will not sit in November.

You can find more detailed information about what was discussed here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/groups-sessions/general-synod-july-2025#na>

With thanks to Kat Darcy via Michelle Obende