



The Church of England in Essex and East London

# Welcome to Diocesan Synod Synod Induction 14 November 2015



# Today...

- Synod in context: structures of the diocese
- The 'Why' of Synod
- What we do at Synod and How we do it
- The Synod as DBF
- Where to find out more

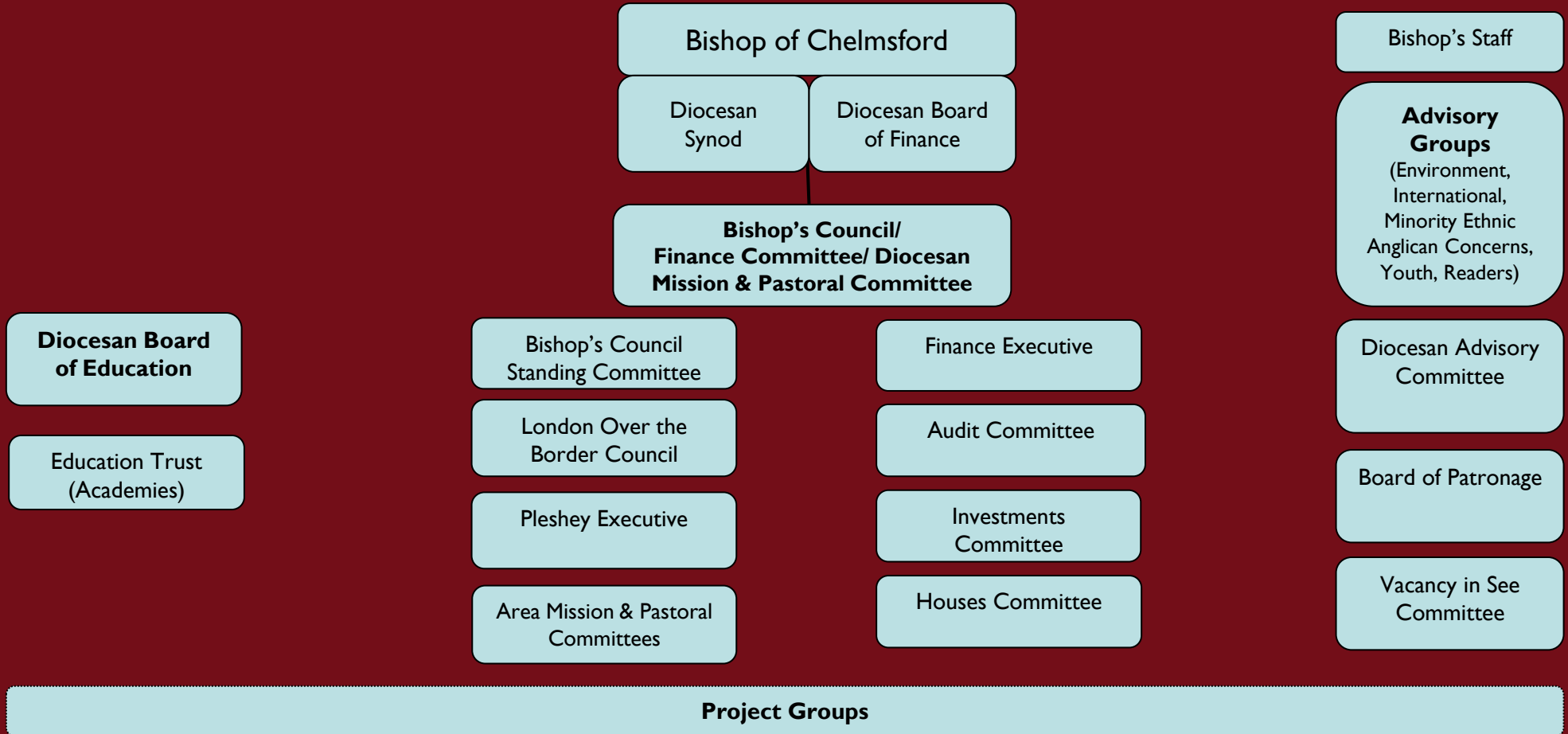


# What is “the diocese”...?

- 3 million people
- Across 1,531 sq miles
- Served by 465 parishes and BMOs
- 140 church schools
- 594 Church buildings
- Over 600 ordained priests
- And more lay ministers, volunteers, worshippers than we can count
- A Christian presence in every community
- We are all “the diocese”



# Governance



Diocesan Committee Structures as at 2015– For more information contact Nathan Whitehead, Pastoral Secretary.



# Different hats

- Synod sits as Synod
- But also three houses:
  - Laity
  - Clergy
  - Bishops
- And the Board of Finance



# Bishop's Council

- Strategic 'board' of the diocese
- Synod's Standing Committee
- Accountable to Synod
- Members partly elected from Synod
- Also sits as
  - Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee
  - Trustee board for the DBF (see later)



# The diocese: legal structures

465 Parishes; 320 Benefices & BMOs

## Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance (CDBF)

(Company limited by guarantee 137029; registered charity 249505)

Finance Committee (Bishop's Council) are the trustees and directors of the company

### Operating 'divisions'

Diocesan Board of Education  
(DBE)  
(Unincorporated)

The Retreat House, Pleshey

Bookshop

Print Unit

The Asheldham Centre  
(managed by Hunter Outdoor)

### Subsidiaries

Sparrows  
(Company 8626895)

Chelmsford  
Diocesan Trading  
Company  
(Company 8474175)

### Other bodies in the family

Chelmsford Diocese  
Educational Trust  
(Company 7706638)

Sower Schools Trust  
(Company 8709656)

Vine Schools Trust  
(Company 8709542)

St Mark's College  
(Charity 1031174)

St Mellitus College

Essex Clergy  
Charity  
(Charity)





# Synod business last 3 years

- Diocesan strategy: *Transforming Presence*
  - Reimagining Ministry, Episcopacy, Transforming Leadership
- Fresh expressions
- Discussion on church buildings
- Reform & Renewal programme
- National legislation: women in the episcopate
- Centenary programme
- Development of church schools
- Budgets and the new share scheme
- And many “good news stories” from around the diocese





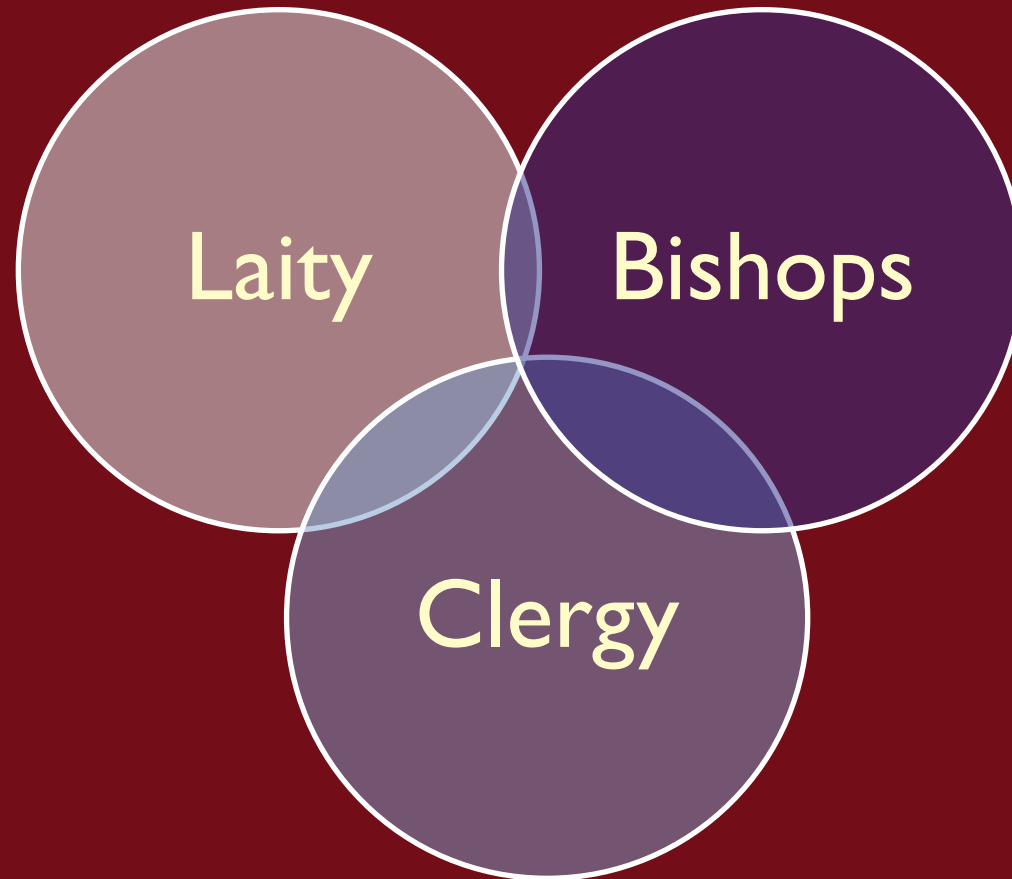
# Synod: who we are

- We represent
  - Church of England parishes in Essex and East London
  - about 40,000 lay people on electoral rolls
  - c 600 clergy
  - 6-7 bishops
- We seek, together, to discern the mission God has for His Church in this place



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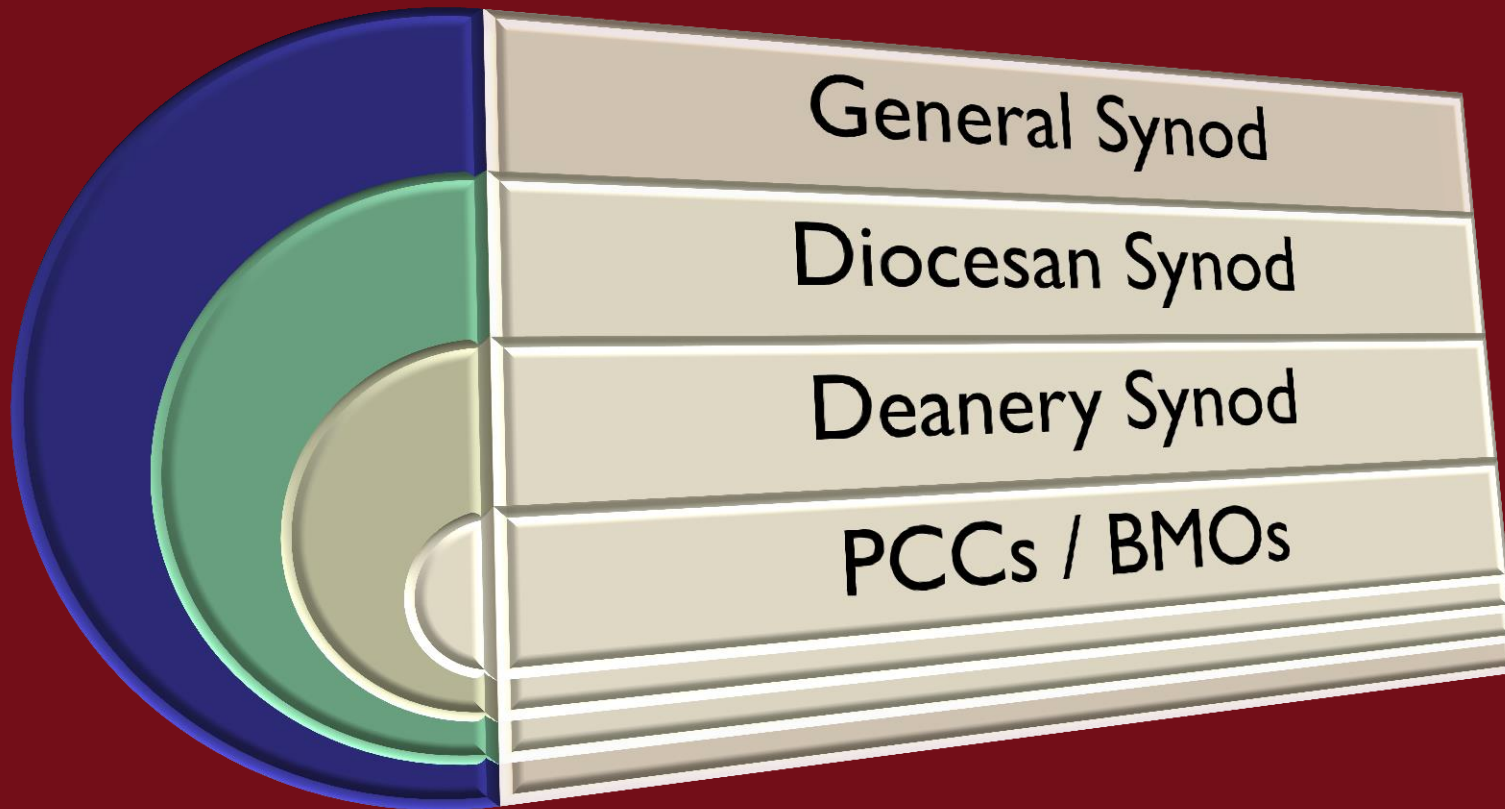
# Seeking His Way Together





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# Seeking His Way Together





# Why we do it

- Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Colossians 3)
- The apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church decided . . . (Acts 15)
- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth (John 16)
- Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them (Matthew 18)



# What We Do

- Debates
- Presentations
- Questions
- Deanery Synod Motions
- Private Member's Motions
- References from General Synod



# How We Do It

- Overall approach to business
- Speaking at Synod
- Debates
  - Motions
  - Amendments
  - Voting
- Presentations



# How We Do It

Questions

Deanery Synod Motions

References from  
General Synod

Private  
Members  
Motions



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# Synod as the Board of Finance

## Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance (CDBF)





# Membership

All members of Diocesan Synod are members (akin to shareholders) of the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance...

... unless remunerated by the CDBF



# Business at Synod

- Elect Chair & Vice-chair (from CDBF) every 3 years
- Receive Financial Statements & Annual Reports
- Appoint Auditors
- Occasional other business
- Budget itself approved by Synod not the DBF (don't ask why)



# Finance Committee: the trustees

- CDBF a limited company and registered charity
- Finance Committee is the CDBF's trustee body
- Membership is as for Bishop's Council except for those who are remunerated by the CDBF
- Determines & monitors all policy relating to finance including clergy numbers, stipends, budgets, grant-making



# Other committees

- **Finance Executive**
  - Oversees routine business (inc budget) and
  - development of proposals for the trustees
- **Houses**
  - Oversight of the operational property estate
- **Investment**
  - Management of glebe and other investments
- **Audit**
  - Preparation of the annual accounts, internal audit and compliance issues
- **Remuneration & Governance**
  - Pay and expenses policies

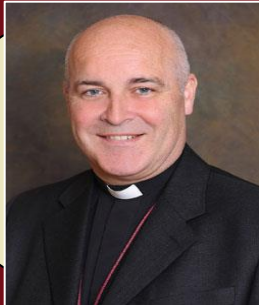


# Diocesan Board of Education

- Responsibility for 140 Church Schools
- Traditional role of support
- New focus on school improvement
- A rapidly changing landscape...  
see Synod agenda for details!

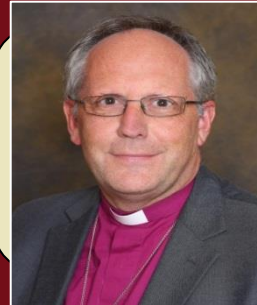


# People you might meet around the place



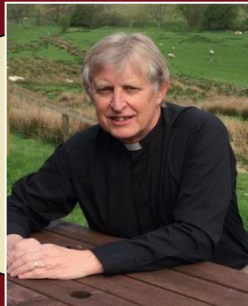
Rt. Revd  
**Stephen Cottrell**

Bishop of  
Chelmsford



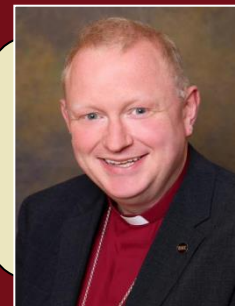
Rt. Revd  
**John Wraw**

Bishop of  
Bradwell



Rt. Revd  
**Peter Hill**

Bishop of  
Barking



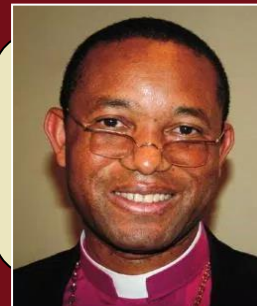
Rt. Revd  
**Roger Morris**

Bishop of  
Colchester



Rt. Revd  
**Norman Banks**

Bishop of  
Richborough



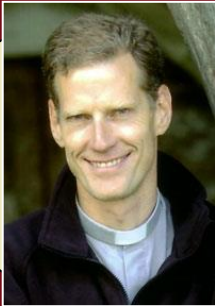
Rt. Revd  
**Trevor Mwamba**

Assistant  
Bishop

and (in due course) Rt Revd Rod Thomas, Bishop of Maidstone



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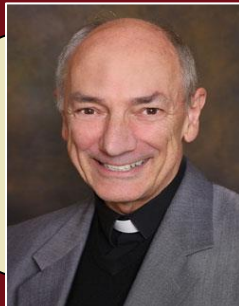
The Ven  
**Robin King**

Archdeacon of  
Stansted



The Ven  
**Annette Cooper**

Archdeacon of  
Colchester



The Ven  
**David Lowman**

Archdeacon of  
Chelmsford



The Ven  
**Mina Smallman**

Archdeacon of  
Southend



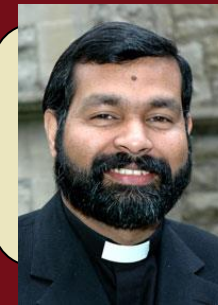
The Ven  
**Elwin Cockett**

Archdeacon of  
West Ham



The Ven  
**Martin Webster**

Archdeacon of  
Harlow



The Ven  
**John Perumbalath**

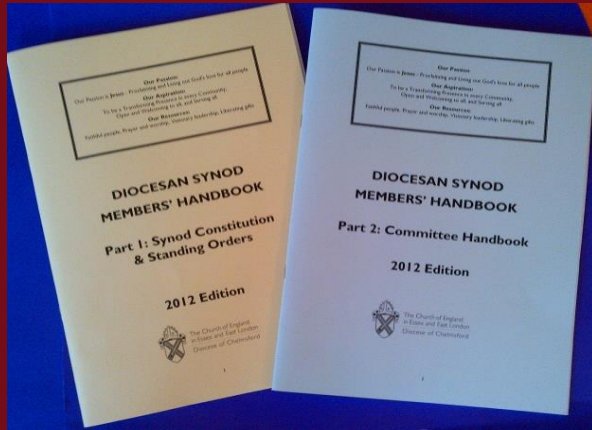
Archdeacon of  
Barking





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# Where to find out more



## Synod Handbook

- Synod Procedures
- Committee Terms of Ref

## Website

- Newly revamped
- Synod papers and archive
- New policies section

## New Directory

- Contact details for parishes, diocesan staff, etc
- Useful info and trivia





“We take our business seriously,  
but we don’t take ourselves  
too seriously”

Canon Sue Atkin  
Former Chair of the House of Laity