

SYNOD 2025

Lay Conference

Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges
Saturday 18 October 2025
8.00am

NOTES and ACTION

The Archbishop welcomed people to the Lay Conference and opened with prayer at 8.05am.

Mrs Janice Panton, Parish of Kelmscott

Lay Conference motion – the intent of the motion was to highlight the limited opportunity lay people have to engage with the Archbishop and Bishops; so the Lay Conference allows lay members a chance to have a conversation with the Bishops and each other.

The Archbishop gave an overview of the history of the Lay Conference; noting that this would be discussed further at Synod.

Mrs Renae Pearse, Parish of Cockburn Central

Actions from Synod 2024 and what information had been provided to parishes. How were parishes contacted?

The Diocesan Secretary, Mr Keith Stephens, referred to Resolutions of Synod 2024 that required action 14/24, 16/24, 17/24, 18/24 and 19/24 – Diocesan Council had required agencies to respond to the Resolutions of Synod as listed.

ACTION: Diocesan Secretary to contact agencies to respond as required by Diocesan Council

Mrs Eddy Crouch, Parish of Kwinana

Intinction at Synod Eucharist – request not to intinct.

The Archbishop referred to the practice required during COVID-19 and the special arrangements during that time. The common cup is an important matter. If parishes request permission intinction will be allowed - when the person who offers the host, using a different chalice, will intinct and offer the host. Communion in one kind is allowed.

Dr Meg Warner, Principal, Wollaston Theological College

Introduced herself as the lay Principal of Wollaston Theological College and referred to the new courses available to lay people from 2026 for which there were brochures for Synod members to collect in the foyer.

Mr Tom Allen, Parish of Willetton

Rural Conference – opportunity for more members of Synod to engage with country and rural people, and have access to the library the Wollaston Theological College.

Mr Keith Stephens advised the Rural Conference will continue in its current form – not a formal part of Synod. Bishop Kate Wilmot explained that the Rural Conference is a chance for the rural and regional clergy and Synod representatives to gather for worship and conversation.

Mrs Mary Dixon , Parish of Esperance

Could the Rural Conference be held on the Friday of Synod?

Archbishop offered to look into the possibility of such a change.

ACTION: Referred to the Synod Steering Committee

Access to Wollaston Library for country people?

Dr Meg Warner currently in conversation with Bishop Kate about taking "Wollaston on the Road".

ACTION: Review day of Rural Conference

Mr Tuarn Brown, Parish of Gingin-Chittering

Challenge of screenings and the administrative work attached to both safe ministry and WHS. Is it possible to bring the groups together; is it practical to bring it into a single form?

Mr Keith Stephens advised that the screenings process is part of the WHS platform; but the screenings process is a very large and complex exercise and requires a team of three to deal with it. WHS has also expanded. Both are part of the whole, but different streams.

ACTION: WHS and Safe Ministry to discuss with Tuarn regarding particular topics

As an Old Guildfordian, Tuarn referred to the publication of *Forward*. The Diocese does not have an annual publication which can be used to promote the work of the Diocese. Suggested that the *Messenger* be published in hard copy for those who do not or cannot read online.

Archbishop advised that some parishes have put together documents for distribution in local communities. The Messenger can be downloaded and printed for use within parishes. Archbishop encouraged Tuarn to speak with other parish representatives to consider how their parish could prepare a publication suitable for their circumstances.

Joey McAuley, Parish of Darlington-Bellevue

Appreciation of the sermon delivered by The Reverend Canon Stephen Daughtry about mission on the ground. Appreciation for the Parish of Midland and its outreach café and the work done with people in need.

Mr John Brett, Parish of Armadale

Mission work done by the Parish of Armadale with its commercial kitchen, delivering street meals and parcels for individuals and families in need, as well as a café. This project was not just an Armadale 'thing' and expressed appreciation to the local churches which contribute to this work in Armadale, and also to the Wollaston College students for packing parcels.

Mr Jeremy Buxon, Parish of West Perth

Recognised the relaxed atmosphere of this Lay Conference and the fact that it would be inappropriate to try to 'shoe horn' it into the middle of Synod business.

The Archbishop thanked everyone for their participation. The Lay Conference concluded at 8.46am.