

Introduction for new members of Diocesan Synod

The Synod Arrangements Committee determined that at the beginning of the triennium a copy of the Standing Orders for the Diocesan Synod should be sent to each member along with a brief introduction to the workings of Synod, particularly for new members and a copy of the Standing Orders is enclosed.

How many Synods are there?

Synods are held three times per year in February/March, June and November. The Synods move to various venues around the Diocese. The February/March and November Synods are held on a Saturday morning. The June meeting will be a mid-week evening.

How is the agenda composed?

The agenda for both the Diocesan Synod and the Bishop's Council is the responsibility of the Synod Arrangements Committee. Agenda items to be considered for inclusion should be sent to the Diocesan Secretary. Agenda items can also come as a referral from General Synod, a motion submitted by Deanery Synod, or matters brought to Synod by one of the Boards or Committees of the Diocese.

How does Synod work?

Synod is chaired by the President (The Bishop) or the Vice-Presidents (Chairmen of the Houses of Clergy and Laity).

The agenda normally states who will be putting the motion and the usual conduct of meetings is that this person introduces the motion and then the chairman opens the debate to the floor. If you wish to participate in a debate please signify this to the chairman by raising your hand. When called please use the microphone provided and state your name before making your contribution. At the conclusion of the debate the person putting the motion is given an opportunity to respond to the points made before any amendments and the motion are put to the vote. Standing Orders 43 – 49 deal with the when, what and how of amendments. Although there is provision for the Chairman to accept an amendment during Synod which has not previously been notified this is unlikely to occur. You will find the date by which amendments should be notified to the Diocesan Secretary at the end of each agenda.

Questions under Standing Order 69

This Standing Order allows members to ask questions of the officers of Synod (Diocesan Secretary and Registrar) or the chairman of Boards and Committees within the Diocese. The date by which these questions have to be submitted is printed at the end of each agenda. The Synod Arrangements Committee particularly wishes to draw members' attention to this opportunity as they believe that it is under-utilised.

Diocesan Board of Finance

Following a decision taken by the Synod and the DBF in the last triennium the members of Diocesan Synod will from 2007 also make up the membership of the Board of Finance. This will mean that on some occasions when Synod meets part of the time will be used to hold a meeting of the Board of Finance, once a year one of the meetings will be the AGM. The day to day work of the Board is managed by the Finance Committee (who are also the trustees) and the officers of the Board.

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