



Newcastle Diocesan Synod

29th November 2014

**A meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod will be held on
Saturday 29th November 2014
at the Northumberland Church of England Academy,
Ashington NE63 9RY
from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
(Registration & refreshments from 9:30 am)**

AGENDA

The meeting will be chaired by
the Revd Canon John Sinclair and Canon Carol Wolstenholme

Opening Worship

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

To approve:

- the Minute of a meeting held on 24th May 2014
- the note of a meeting held on 6th October 2014

3. Matters Arising

4. Notices

Items *a, b* and *c* relate to business carried out by the General Synod and item *d* relates to business carried out by the Bishop's Council & Standing Committee.

- (a) PROCLAMATION OF THE ACT OF SYNOD
VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE REGULATION
- (b) PROCLAMATION OF THE ACT OF SYNOD
RESCINDING THE EPISCOPAL MINISTRY ACT OF
SYNOD 1993
- (c) PROMULGATION OF AMENDING CANON NO.31
- (d) DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY AND PROCEDURES
(Paper DS14 07)

5. Appointment of Honorary Assistant Bishop

In accordance with the *Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007* (s13) the Diocesan Synod is asked to approve the appointment of the Rt Revd Stephen Platten as an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Newcastle.



Newcastle Diocesan Synod

29th November 2014

not later than 10:25

6. Botswana Youth Exchange 2014

Presentation by members of the summer 2014 Youth Exchange

7. Evangelism Task Group

Presentation to update Synod on the follow up work of the Open Synod Forum held on Saturday 27th September 2014.

8. Budget 2015 (Paper DS14 08)

The Chairman of the Board of Finance to propose that the Synod, sitting as the Diocesan Board of Finance, resolve as follows:

(a) that the budget be approved; or

(b) that the budget be referred back to the Standing Committee

(not later than 11:20)

Break

9. Poverty Task Group

Report by members of the Poverty Task Group

10. Lay Voices

Report to update Synod on the work of the Lay Voices' initiative, including attendance at General Synod and the Lay Voices Conference held on Saturday 25th October 2014.

11. Vacancy in See Committee (update)

An update on the Committee's work which began in October.

12. General Synod Report

not later than 12:30

13. Presidential Address

The Rt Revd Frank White

14. Dates of next meetings in 2015

14th March; 16th May; 19th September;

6th October; 28th November

15. Close



Newcastle Diocesan Synod

29th November 2014

EXPLANATORY NOTES

BY THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE

Ecumenical Observers

By invitation of the President, observers representing the Methodist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed Churches and the Salvation Army can attend the meetings of the Synod. They also have the permission of the Chairman to address the Synod, but they have no right to move any motion or amendment or to vote.

Standing Orders

The current Standing Orders were circulated to members in November 2011 and are available to members on request.

In view of the infrequency with which reference is made to Standing Orders, the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee has advised the Chairman of the Synod that it would be appropriate for the proceedings of the Synod to be interrupted and for the Orders to be checked before a ruling is given.

Members' attention is drawn to the fact that the lectern is provided for the benefit of speakers named on the agenda. Members of the Synod who are called to speak during a debate are asked to do so from the microphones in the body of the meeting.

Length of Speeches

The Chairman has authority to limit the duration of speeches at his discretion. Following the advice of the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee, he will normally allow an opening speaker 15 minutes and will limit other speeches to 10 minutes.

The time limit for a proposer to respond to a debate is ten minutes. The Standing Committee's advice is that there is no procedural need, nor one of etiquette, to respond to all speakers or points.

Synod Papers

The explanatory papers circulated with Synod agenda are primarily designed to give members the factual background to motions. Argument of the case is the responsibility of the proposer at the meeting itself.

It is the Synod's policy also to offer to members who wish to submit motions and amendments arising from the agenda the facility of circulating explanatory



Newcastle Diocesan Synod

29th November 2014

papers. In response to a request that this arrangement be clarified, the Standing Committee has determined that:

- (i) It is expected that such papers will also be designed primarily to set out the factual background rather than the argument.
- (ii) It is expected that they will have been prepared by member(s) concerned, rather than be publications prepared by other individuals or organisations.
- (iii) Sets of addressed envelopes can be made available to Synod members who wish to circulate papers which do not fall into either of these categories.

Motions and Amendments

The formal notice which is issued to members (and to Area Deans, Lay Chairmen and Secretaries of Deanery Synods) six weeks before each meeting invites them to submit new business for the agenda. Under Standing Orders (no.26) this should be sent in writing to the Secretary and must reach him not later than 35 days before the meeting is held. Members may submit motions and amendments arising from the agenda up to 7 days before the meeting and, on important matters of policy, arrangements can be made as outlined above for explanatory papers to be circulated so that members can study them before the debate.

A motion or amendment can only be moved during a meeting without notice if the Chairman gives permission and the text must be handed to the Secretary before it is moved. Members who have in mind the possibility of proposing an amendment during the meeting are asked whenever possible to give prior notice to the Chairman and to the proposer of the motion concerned.

Question

Under Standing Orders (no.69) a question may be asked of the Secretary, the Registrar or the Chairman of any body constituted by the Synod on which it is represented. These should be sent to the Diocesan Secretary 7 days prior to the meeting.

Closing Date

The closing date for motions and amendments arising from the Agenda of this meeting of Synod is **26th November 2014**.

The date of the next meeting is 14th March 2015.