

## Newcastle Diocesan Synod

### Short note about structures for Boards and Committees

Note from the Diocesan Secretary

#### 1. Welcome to the start of the new triennium

This may be your first term as a member of the Diocesan Synod or you may have served for many years.

You have the opportunity to contribute to the shaping and constant renewal of our shared mission as a diocesan family. We seek to be a sustaining Christian presence in every community we serve, generous to all, engaged with the world around us and with each other, open to God's will and the needs of others.

You are also a member of the Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd and will contribute to those parts of our Synod meetings concerned with the responsible and effective use of our God-given financial resources.

This short note sets out some information about the Boards and Committees. One of the first tasks is to elect people to serve as members. It may be that you will stand for election. For those elected, their appointments commence on 1 January 2016.

#### 2. Diocesan Synod

The Synod is your opportunity to contribute to the debates that discern God's will for our diocese and learn from the insights of other members. It is governed by Standing Order which are available on request from Church House but most of its business is conducted according to some simple guidelines.

Each year there are usually **two formal meetings** (in November and May) and **two 'forums'** in which the Synod works informally on a chosen theme in company with non-members who are welcome to participate. Meetings are usually held on a Saturday morning from 10:00am through to 1:00pm.

An additional **finance meeting** is held in early October to help to shape the budget before it is presented to Synod formally. This meeting is usually held in an evening from 18:00 to 20:00. The next finance meeting will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 18:00.

The Bishop of Newcastle is the **President of the Synod**. The House of Laity and the House of Clergy each elects a Chair at the start of the triennium and you will notice that this is the first item of business on the 19<sup>th</sup> September Agenda. The elected chairs usually chair the meetings of the Synod.

Members are welcome to **raise questions** to be answered at Synod meetings. Questions must be submitted to the Diocesan Secretary ahead of the Synod meeting to ensure that an appropriate person is able to give an informed answer.

In order to facilitate good discussion speeches should not normally last longer than ten minutes, but the Chair may vary this limit according to the circumstances of a particular debate.

The Chair will usually take a show of hands when the Synod votes. However, at certain times a separate vote by Houses may be required.

When required, a part of the Synod meeting will be designated a meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd and will be chaired by the Chair of the Board of Finance.

### 3. Boards and Committees

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<b>Bishop's Council &amp; Standing Committee</b> Chair: The Bishop of Newcastle Secretary: Shane Waddle	<b>The Bishop's Council is the Synod's Standing Committee and takes a strategic overview of the life of the Diocese. It develops policy and sets priorities under the direction of the Synod and the Bishop.</b>  Its work includes advising on financial and strategic decisions, holding together policy, finance, and deployment of resources within the framework of the Church's mission. The Bishop's Council acts as the <b>Board of Directors</b> of the Diocesan Board of Finance and members are trustees of the Board as a registered charity.  The Council also ensures that the work done through Task Groups matches the priorities for the diocese, and that Task Groups are set up to carry out necessary work in areas not already covered.  Members of Bishop's Council need to be people who are keen to work together to develop a strategic vision for the Diocese as a whole. The Council requires people with a range of skills and interests, in mission, pastoral organisations and finance.
<b>Diocesan Mission &amp; Pastoral Committee (DMPC)</b> Chair: The Revd Paul Scott Secretary: Carol Hepple	<b>The DMPC reviews arrangements for pastoral supervision in the Diocese; prepares strategies or proposals for making better provision for the cure of souls, and makes recommendations to the Bishop, and has responsibility for the future of churches no longer required for public worship.</b>  In consultation with ecumenical partners it works with parishes and deaneries to elicit their views on decisions that affect them, and is responsible for Bishop's Mission Orders which enable and support new mission initiatives within the overall ordering of the life of the church.  The DMPC has rights, powers, duties and obligations laid down by the Diocesan Pastoral and Mission Measure and is committed to deploying these in the best interests of the Church's mission throughout the diocese.
<b>Houses &amp; Glebe Committee</b> Chair: Canon Roger Windass Secretary: Ian Beswick	<b>The Houses &amp; Glebe Committee manages two categories of land and property on behalf of the Diocese and reports annually to the Bishop's Council.</b>  Under the Repair of Benefice Buildings Measure 1972 the Committee supports the clergy and their family in providing a safe and secure home, and oversees the maintenance, repair and improvement of the housing stock.  Under the Endowments & Glebe Measure 1976 the Committee oversees management of glebe land to provide income to support parochial stipends across the diocese.

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<b>Diocesan Education Board</b> Chair: The Ven Peter Robinson Secretary: Paul Rickeard	<b>The Education Board work with schools, RE and collective worship within a statutory framework set by Parliament and the General Synod.</b>  The Church Schools in our Diocese represent a tremendous opportunity to serve children and families in the name and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.  Newcastle Diocesan Education Board is a limited company and a registered charity. The Board, and its two Committees, meets four times per year.  The work of the Joint Team for Church Schools in Newcastle and Durham Dioceses is furthered by additional meetings for organisational and strategic development.
<b>Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC)</b> Chair: Canon Dr Geoffrey Purves Secretary: Lucy Burfield	<b>The DAC advises the Chancellor of the Diocese (the senior legal officer) on all applications to carry out works on or to churches and churchyards.</b>  Members of the DAC are appointed rather than elected, as experts in some relevant discipline relating to historic buildings, or with a particular interest in the care and use of church buildings. Members serve without payment.
<b>Vacancy in See Committee</b> Chair: The Very Revd Christopher Dalliston Secretary: Shane Waddle	<b>The Vacancy in See Committee is elected at the start of each triennium, but only meets when there is a vacancy in the See of Newcastle. The Committee was convened on the retirement of the Rt Revd Martin Wharton.</b>  The Committee consults widely and prepares a statement setting out the needs of the Diocese for consideration by the Crown Nominations Commission. The Committee elects six of its members to serve on the Crown Nominations Commission when the Commission meets to consider the See of Newcastle.

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#### 4. Meeting dates in 2016

Regretfully, these are not yet available but will be made available as soon as possible.

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