



Newcastle Diocesan Synod

14th May 2016

**A meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod will be held on
Saturday 14th May 2016
at the Dr Thomlinson Church of England Middle School,
Silverton Lane, Rothbury NE65 7RJ
from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
(Registration and refreshments from 9:30 am)**

AGENDA

The meeting will be chaired by
the Revd Canon John Sinclair (Chair of the House of Clergy)
and Canon Carol Wolstenholme (Chair of the House of Laity)

- 1. Welcome from the Chair** *followed by*
Opening Worship
*The Revd James Harvey, Priest in Charge of Felton and Longframlington with Brinkburn will lead the worship. James is also the Children's and Young People's Work Development Officer in the north of the diocese and following the worship James will give a short presentation about the diocesan youth event, **Staying Alive***
- 2. Diocesan Synod 28th November 2015**
 - 2.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2015 (Paper DS16 02)
 - 2.2 Matters Arising
- 3. Notices**
 - 3.1 Promulgation of Amending Canon No. 34
This item relates to business carried out by the General Synod (paper GS 1953D relating to matters of safeguarding).
- 4. Questions**

Questions submitted by members in advance of the meeting will be taken here.
- 5. Presidential Address**

The Bishop of Newcastle will address the Synod.
- 6. General Synod Report**

The Revd Catherine Pickford, General Synod Member, will give a report of the proceedings of the February 2016 Session of the General Synod.



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7. Annual Reports

7.1 Financial Statements for 2015 (Paper DS 16 04)

(See also the accompanying note DS16 04A by John Hall)

Canon Simon Harper, the Chairman of the Board of Finance to propose:

'that the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2015 be received.'

the meeting will pause for a break not later than 11:30 and will reconvene at 11:50.

7.2 Annual Reports 2015 (Paper DS 16 03)

The Rt Revd Frank White, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, will give an overview of the activities carried out in 2015 and will propose:

'that the Annual Reports for Boards, Committees, Supporting Ministers and Task Groups be received.'

8. Responding to Renewal and Reform

8.1 National work streams and Lay Leadership (Paper DS 16 05)

Canon Carol Wolstenholme, Chair of the House of Laity and General Synod Member, will lead a short session to update the Synod on the work streams within the programme of Renewal and Reform and developments with the work stream about Lay Leadership.

8.2 Companions of St Aidan

The Ven Geoff Miller will give an update about the Companions of St Aidan including the Woodhorn Hosting to be held on 5 June.

9. Farewells

10. Worship and Close

Future meetings of the Diocesan Synod in 2016

Saturday 24th September 2016 at 10:00 to 13:00 (Open Synod Forum)

Tuesday 11th October 2016 at 18:00 to 20:00 (Finance Synod for 2017 Budget)

Saturday 26th November 2016 at 10:00 to 13:00 (Formal Synod)

Enclosed for reference: DS16 06

A summary of the Open Synod Forum held on 12th March



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



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- (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

As indicated in the notice served on 23rd April the closing date for motions and amendments arising from the Agenda of this meeting of Synod is **6th May 2016**.

The date of the next meetings are: 24th September (Synod Forum); 11th October (Finance Synod) and 26th November (Formal Synod).