



Newcastle Diocesan Synod

28th November 2015

**A meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod will be held on
Saturday 28th November 2015
at the Northumberland Church of England Academy, Ashington
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)

Opening Worship

Worship throughout this session of the Synod will be lead by the Revd Catherine MacPherson, the Revd Frances Wilson and the Revd Rachel Wood

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence**
- 2. Note of a meeting held on 6th October (DS15 21)**
- 3. Notices**
- 4. Questions**
- 5. General Synod Report**

A short report of the proceedings following the inauguration of the Tenth General Synod (held on 24th to 25th November)
- 6. Responding to Reform & Renewal (DS15 22)**

This session will explore the report (DS15 22) from the Strategic Development Group. The report identifies three areas of work and the Synod will work in groups to look at each of the three stages. Background information about the programme of Reform & Renewal is available from www.newcastle.anglican.org/synod

The Archdeacon of Northumberland to propose:

‘that the work proposed by the Strategic Development Group be endorsed.’

(not later than 11:30)
- 7. Worship followed by a break**

Refreshments available in the hall adjacent to the meeting area.



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(not later than 11:50)

8. **Budget 2016** (paper DS15 23)

For this item of business members of the Synod are sitting as members of the Diocesan Board of Finance. The proposed budget for 2016 is set out in paper DS15 23. Canon Simon Harper will make a short presentation and there will be an opportunity for members to ask questions about the budget. Canon Harper will then make his proposal.

Canon Simon Harper, the Chair 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*

9. **Presentation by Inspired North East**

Spirit in Stone Project

Background information about Inspired North East is available from www.inspirednortheast.org.uk

The Dean to propose:

'that this Synod welcomes the part that the Spirit in Stone project has played in developing visitor and pilgrim welcome to our church buildings and commends Church Buildings for Everyone to the parishes of the Diocese.'

10. **Proposed Suffragan See of Berwick** (DS15 24)

This session will enable the Synod to engage in the process for the proposal to revive the See of Berwick. The Assistant Bishop will lead a presentation.

Links to background information about Suffragan Sees are available from www.newcastle.anglican.org/synod

The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne to propose:

'that this Synod support the proposal to fill the suffragan see of Berwick.'

(not later than 12:50)

11. **Presidential Reflections**

The Rt Revd Frank White (Assistant Bishop of Newcastle)

12. **Worship and Close**



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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 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 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

The closing date for motions and amendments arising from the Agenda of this meeting of Synod is **25th November 2015**.

The date of the next meeting is 12th March (Synod Forum); 14th May (Formal Synod).