

**A meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod
will be held on Saturday 7th June 2025 at 10:00am.
at Dr Thomlinson Church of England Middle School, Silverton Lane, Rothbury,
NE65 7RJ.**

President: The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Newcastle

*Registration and refreshments will be available from 9:30am.
There will be a mid-point break for refreshments during the meeting.*

AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Bishop of Newcastle followed by opening prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

3. Declarations of Interest

Any member with a personal interest (direct or indirect) in a matter of business included within the agenda, should declare it at this point.

4. Meeting held on Saturday 8th March 2025

4.1 Business transacted on Saturday 8th March 2025 ([Paper DS25 07](#))

4.2 Matters Arising

- i. Past Paper to Diocesan Synod on New Worshipping Communities ([Paper DS23 19](#))
- ii. Finance Item Queries (*to be addressed at item 9.4*)
- iii. Safeguarding Team Recruitment (*to be addressed at item 11.3 i*)
- iv. Question from Revd Canon Louise Taylor-Kenyon asking Synod to review the full-time (FT) clergy allocation for the deanery as it is their belief that 4 FT Clergy is the only way forward.

5. Notices

5.1 Elections Update ([Paper DS25 08](#))

The Synod will receive an update on newly elected members to Boards and Committees.

5.2 DMPC 2024 Annual Report ([Paper DMPC25 26](#))

The Synod to receive the 2024 Annual DMPC Report.

6. Questions

Questions received from members in advance of the meeting shall be taken here.

7. Presidential Address

Bishop Helen-Ann will give a Presidential Address to the Synod.

8. Living in Love and Faith: Informal Consultation on Draft Proposals

([Paper DS25 09a](#)), ([Paper DS25 09b](#)), ([Paper DS25 09c](#)), ([Paper DS25 09d](#)), ([Paper DS25 09e](#))

The Dean of Newcastle will lead this item on LLF.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

9. Board of Finance Items

9.1 **Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024** ([Paper DS25 10](#))

For this item members of the Diocesan Synod sit as members of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

The Head of Finance will give an overview of the 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements and this will be followed by an opportunity for members to ask questions of clarification, after which the item will be opened for debate. Following the debate, the Head of Finance will propose: 'that the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2024 be received.'

9.2 **Management Accounts: Period 4 to 30th April 2025** ([Paper DS25 11](#))

The Synod to receive the Management Account to period 4, 2025.

9.3 **2026 Budget Consultation**

The Head of Finance will provide an overview of the upcoming 2026 Budget Consultation Process.

9.4 **Finance Item Queries**

The Head of Finance will answer questions raised at the last sitting of Synod in relation to the following two items:

- i. Renter's Rights Act
- ii. Parish Giving Scheme

9.5 **Bishop's Groups Update**

The Synod will receive a short overview from Bishop Helen-Ann as well as a progress update from the Chair of each Group.

10. Mission and Ministry

i. **Mission and Ministry Update** ([Paper DS25 12](#))

The Synod to receive a report from the Director of Mission and Ministry .

ii. **National Lottery Heritage Funding: Strategic Initiative for Places of Worship Grant**

The Secretary will provide an oral update to Synod on plans to apply to the Strategic Initiative for Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

11. Standing Agenda Items

11.1 **Racial Justice**

The Bishop of Berwick will speak to the Synod on the following two Racial Justice items:

i. **Racial Justice Annual Report** ([Paper DS25 13](#))

The Synod to receive the above paper for information.

ii. **Racial Justice Development Officer: Update**

The Synod to receive an oral update on recruitment for the Racial Justice Development Officer post.

11.2 **Net Zero Action Plan**

i. **Welcome and Introduction to New Net Zero Programme Manager, Marion Schooler**

The new Net Zero Programme Manager will be invited to address the Synod and give an update on the Net Zero Action Plan.

11.3 **Safeguarding**

i. **Welcome to New Safeguarding Team**

The Director of Safeguarding will introduce new members of the Safeguarding Team to the Synod.

ii. **Safeguarding Update**

The Director of Safeguarding will provide an update on initial safeguarding priorities.

iii. **Chaplaincy to Survivors Update**

The Synod will receive an update on the Chaplaincy to Survivors post.

12. Deanery Planning

The Archdeacons will provide an update on progress since the last sitting of Synod.

13. Any other business

Any other business notified to the Diocesan Secretary ahead of the meeting will be taken here.

14. Close

The Chair will draw the business to a close no later than 13:00.

Diocesan Synod Meeting dates in 2025

- **Saturday 29nd November** at 10:00am – St Thomas' Newcastle
Including 2026 Budget Proposal.

Diocesan Synod Meeting dates in 2026 (Venues to be confirmed)

- **Saturday 28th Feb** at 10:00am
- **Saturday 4th July** at 10:00am
- **Saturday 28th November** at 10:00am
Including 2027 Budget Proposal.