

**A meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod  
will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at 10:00am.  
at the Duke's Secondary School, Academy Road, Ashington NE63 9FZ.**

President: The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Newcastle  
The meeting will be chaired by the Chair of the House of Clergy, the Revd Canon Brian Hurst  
and the Chair of the House of Laity, Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth

*Registration and refreshments will be available from 9:30am.  
The meeting will break for lunch at 12:15.*

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023**
  - 4.1 Business transacted on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 ([paper DS23 14](#))
  - 4.2 Matters arising
- 5. Notices**  
*Any notices for the Synod's attention will be included here.*
- 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. General Synod Report ([paper DS23 16](#))**  
*The Synod will receive a report about the November 2023 sitting of the General Synod.*
- 9. Budget 2024 ([paper DS23 17](#))**  
*The Synod, sitting as the members of the Diocesan Board of Finance, is invited to resolve:*
  - a) *that the budget be approved; or*
  - b) *that the budget be referred back to the Standing Committee.*
- 10. Racial Justice ([paper DS23 18](#))**  
*The Synod is invited to consider and agree the recommendations from the Racial Justice Group. These recommendations were first considered at a meeting of the Bishop's Council on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.*

**LUNCH BREAK** (not later than 12:15)

***the Agenda continues over the page***

**11. Deanery Planning** (oral update)

*The Synod will receive an update on progress with deanery plans.*

**12. Growing New Worshipping Communities** ([paper DS23 19](#))

*The Synod is invited to consider and agree the strategy for Growing New Worshipping Communities. This strategy was first considered at a meeting of the Bishop's Council on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.*

**13. Safeguarding**

*The Synod will receive a presentation from the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and the Lead Officer for the Chaplaincy to Survivors.*

**14. Environment Report** (Oral Report)

*The Synod will receive an update about environmental work including net zero carbon.*

**15. Elections 2024** ([paper DS23 20](#))

*The Synod is invited to agree the numbers to be elected to the Diocesan Synod in 2024.*

**16. Governance** (Oral Report)

*The Synod will receive an update on the review of governance.*

**17. Any other business**

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

**18. Close**

*The Chair will draw the business to a close no later than 15:00.*

**Meeting dates reserved for Diocesan Synod in 2024**

- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November