

**A meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod  
will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10:00am.  
at St John's Church, St John's Terrace, Percy Main, North Shields NE29 6HS.**

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.  
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 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**
  - 4.1 Business transacted on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 ([paper DS24 02](#))
  - 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. Welcome and introduction to the Revd Dr Richard Whaite, Director of Mission and Ministry**  
*The new Director of Mission and Ministry will be invited to address the Synod.*
- 9. General Synod Report ([paper DS24 03](#))**  
*The Synod will receive a report about the February 2024 sitting of the General Synod.*
- 10. Safeguarding ([paper DS24 04](#))**  
*The Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Panel, Jackie McHanwell, will present the Annual Report for 2023. This will be followed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser updating Synod about work with Sunderland University, items from the National Church and projects including LOUDfences and Jagged Edges.*

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

**11. Racial Justice** ([paper DS24 05](#))

*Bishop Mark will update the Synod on progress since the last sitting of the Synod.*

**REFRESHMENT BREAK** (not later than 11:40)

**12. Newcastle Cathedral**

*The Dean, the Very Revd Lee Batson, will lead this item which will involve group discussion and plenary feedback.*

**13. Deanery Planning**

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

**14. Finance update**

*The Chair of the Board of Finance will lead this item which will include:*

- i. Outturn for 2023 (pre-audit completion).*
- ii. Progress on the £300k of savings to be made in 2024.*
- iii. The Estate of the late Bishop Alec Graham.*

**15. Environment**

*The Synod will receive an update on the developing Net Zero Action Plan.*

**16. Any other business**

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

**17. Close**

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

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

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 10:00am at Newcastle Cathedral  
*Including items on Education; Net Zero; and Governance.*
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 10:00am at Newcastle Cathedral  
*Including Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023*
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 10:00 at St Mary's Church, Claremont Gardens, Whitley Bay NE26 3SF  
*First meeting of the new Diocesan Synod following elections.*
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November at Dr Thomlinson Church of England Middle School, Rothbury NE65 7RJ  
*Including proposed budget 2025.*