

Roles and responsibilities of Diocesan Synod members



DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

Most people serve on the Diocesan Synod as deanery representatives. Other members are the Bishops and Archdeacons, members of General Synod, and a few are co-opted or nominated. The Diocesan Synod is also the Diocesan Board of Finance. Work in all spheres of church life brings its own responsibilities. The members of the Diocesan Synod are there to work in collaboration with each other and the officers of the Diocese to forward the mission of the Church.

This involves seeking to:

1. Live and grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, sustained by word and sacrament within the fellowship of the worshipping Church.
2. Represent the perspectives of their deanery and its parishes on the Diocesan Synod by all means available.
3. Be a point of contact both ways between the Diocese, the deanery and its parishes, participating fully in the life of all three, and remembering that a prime purpose of the Diocese is to support and enable work in deaneries and parishes, but not to direct it.
4. Work to grow cultures of generosity and genuine stewardship within the Church which honour and develop the gifts and ministry resources of all.
5. Inform themselves about the work and enterprise of the various Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils. Consider standing for election to those for which membership of the Diocesan Synod is a pre-requisite. Also consider, or encourage, others with particular expertise to explore, membership of other Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils.
6. Support the mission of the Church by prayer and personal example and seek to promote honest and harmonious working relationships throughout the Diocese and the Church of England.
7. Inform themselves of issues under discussion at Diocesan and national levels and try to ensure that the achievements of the Church at all levels are widely shared and understood.
8. Take an interest in relationships which link what is going on locally into the Diocese and the world church.
9. Commit to and seek to further the Diocese of Truro's vision: Discovering God's Kingdom; Growing the Church.

In carrying out the role of Diocesan Synod representative all members are asked to:

- Actively participate in discussions - the more people participate, the greater the legitimacy of the Synod & the more life it cascades out into the life of the diocese
- Always consider issues prayerfully, behave impeccably
- Be punctual, graciously attending three meetings each year
- Send apologies promptly when you are unable to attend
- Suggest strategic and/or creative agenda items to the agenda drafting committee in good time
- Put forward questions, tabled in good time
- Be strategic and focused
- Offer solutions (not just problems), options and choices in the way ahead
- Listen to others attentively
- Speak kindly, clearly and succinctly
- Vote and make decisions for the good of the Diocese as a whole
- Offer feedback so we can learn and improve
- Bring sensitivity and tact
- Have a sense of humour

For their period of office, members of Diocesan Synod are also ex officio members of their Deanery Synod and PCC, which implies a further commitment of time above and beyond the meetings of Diocesan Synod itself. They also become eligible for election to a range of other bodies (such as the Bishop's Diocesan Council) which assist in the running of the Diocese.

For more information about Diocesan Synod itself please see the 'Diocesan Synod Reference Guide' available on the website.