



Most people serve on Diocesan Synod as deanery representatives, elected by their deanery synod. There are also 'ex officio' members – ie. people who are members by virtue of another role they hold, such as the Bishops, Archdeacons and General Synod representatives. A few members may be nominated directly by the Bishop of Coventry, who acts as President of Diocesan Synod.

Diocesan Synod members are also the members of the Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance (CDBF), a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. The prime purpose of the CDBF is to support and enable mission and ministry within deaneries and parishes.

Members of Diocesan Synod are there to work in collaboration with each other and the officers of the diocese to work towards the diocesan mission purpose to *Worship God, Make New Disciples and Transform Communities*.

This involves seeking to:

- Live and grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, sustained by word and sacrament within the fellowship of the worshipping Church.
- Represent the perspectives of their deanery and its parishes on the Diocesan Synod.
- Be a point of contact both ways between the diocesan synod, the deanery and the parishes, participating fully in the life of all three.
- Work to grow cultures of generosity and stewardship within the Church which honour and develop the gifts and ministry resources of all.
- Be informed about the work and purpose of the various Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils, and consider standing for those where appropriate. Also, consider or encourage others with particular expertise or gifting to explore membership of these groups.
- Support the mission of the Church by prayer and personal example and seek to promote honest and harmonious working relationships.
- Be informed of issues under discussion at diocesan and national levels.
- Take an interest in relationships which link what is going on locally into the Diocese and the wider church.
- Commit to and seek to further the Diocese of Coventry's mission purpose.

For the time of their period of office, members of Diocesan Synod are also ex officio members of their Deanery Synod and PCC.

In carrying out the role of Diocesan Synod representative all members are asked to be aware of and comply with the Diocesan Synod Code of Conduct. In particular, members are asked to:

- Familiarise themselves with the Standing Orders which govern the business of Diocesan Synod
- Actively participate in discussions
- Consider issues prayerfully
- Be punctual, and to attend the three meetings held each year wherever possible
- Send apologies promptly if unable to attend
- Suggest agenda items to the Business Committee in good time
- Contribute via motions or submitted questions, in line with the timeframes laid out in the Standing Orders
- Listen to others attentively
- Speak kindly, clearly and succinctly
- Bring sensitivity and tact
- Disagree well, treating other members and diocesan staff with respect at all times
- Vote and make decisions for the good of the Diocese as a whole
- Offer constructive feedback to enable Diocesan Synod to learn and improve