

Bishop's Council – information for members

What is the Bishop's Council?

The Bishop's Council is the senior committee in the Diocese. It has several roles:

- As the **Bishop's Council**, the members are counsellors to the Bishop.
- As the **Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod**, it makes decisions for the Synod between its meetings.
- As the **Directors and Trustees of the Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd. (DBF)**, the members of Bishop's Council are legally responsible for the DBF and have ultimate responsibility for clergy houses.
- As the **Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee**, it considers pastoral business such as parish reorganisation.

Who needs to be elected?

- 7 clergy members of the Diocesan Synod (at least 2 from each archdeaconry)
- 8 lay members of the Diocesan Synod (at least 2 from each archdeaconry)

The Bishop of Coventry, Bishop of Warwick, the Dean of Coventry, as well as the Archdeacons and the Chairs of the Houses of the Synod and the DBF, are also members *ex officio*.



A note from Bishop Christopher

Bishop's Council fulfils a number of vital statutory functions for the Diocese. All of these are necessary and I appreciate the particular skills that members of Council bring to these deliberations and the decisions that follow.

Alongside ensuring that those systems of order are properly maintained, is the equally vital task of giving counsel to me as we seek together to map out the future for the Diocese of Coventry in the months and years ahead, and to discover the life that God has for us. The Archbishop's charge to me 'to liberate the missionary energies of the Diocese' requires a team of godly and visionary men and women to discern what God is doing in the Diocese and to steer our parishes and deaneries, schools and communities into greater alignment with that divine and loving will.

Do consider whether God might be calling you to giving me such counsel on Bishop's Council.

Yours in Christ
+Christopher

What's it like being on Council?

A typical meeting will see around 30 people engaging with a variety of interesting topics. The group is large enough to contain a wide range of views, yet small enough for them to be expressed and discussed.

Briefing papers are distributed at least a week before the meeting. These documents help to facilitate high-quality debates and informed decisions.

What's the commitment?

- Normally four evening meetings each year, with some preparation/reading required
- One all day Saturday meeting in April
- Occasional consultations by email between meetings
- Membership will last 3 years until July 2024

You can see a short film of some current members discussing what they enjoy about being part of Bishop's Council on our website at:

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/about/governance/2021-elections/2021-bishops-council-elections.php>

For more information contact
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