

## **What do members of Diocesan Synod do?**

Diocesan Synod meets to:

- Consider matters concerning the Church of England and make provision for these matters in relation to the diocese.
- Consider and express an opinion on matters of religious or public interest and on any matters referred to it by General Synod.
- Advise the bishop on matters on which he may choose to consult.

Meetings happen on two Saturdays per year; the first in March or April and the second in mid-October. The Synod's normal venue is the Council Chamber of County Hall, Exeter. The commitment to prepare for and attend 6 meetings over 3 years is a serious one and electoral candidates need to be clear that they can give sufficient priority to this role throughout their term of office.

Members occupy a pivotal role not only in taking decisions but also ensuring good quality communication throughout the Diocese. They are also members (but not trustees or directors) of the Diocesan Board of Finance and financial business does take up a proportion of synod's time.

### **Members' responsibilities include:**

Keeping Deanery Synods informed of diocesan policies, discussions and decisions.  
Keeping informed through Deanery Synods of opinions and events in parishes.  
Discussing matters raised by Deanery Synods and Parochial Church Councils.

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.

Within meetings, the Synod benefits from having as members those people who consider issues prayerfully, listen to others attentively, are willing to speak clearly and succinctly and are able to make decisions for the good of the Diocese as a whole. Tact and a sense of humour also help!

This year, for the first time, it is intended to set up a mentoring system in which experienced members offer support to new members on how to be an effective participant in the workings of the Diocesan Synod.