

Where to find out more about the Synodical process and how to become involved

The Diocese of Derby web site

www.derby.anglican.org

Regular summary reports on the proceedings of the most recent General Synods will also be posted online.

The Church of England web site

www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas

From your General Synod representatives

(see overleaf)

Lay members can be contacted by post c/o Derby Church House, Full Street, DE1 3DR. Please mark the envelope 'General Synod Business'.

The church press

e.g. Church Times, and The Church of England Newspaper offer very good General Synod reports.

Please take the time to find out a little more about General Synod - your involvement does make a difference.

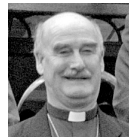
General Synod representatives in the Diocese of Derby

The following contacts are happy to hold presentations at Deanery Synods or talk to church groups about getting involved in the General Synod processes.

Clergy



The Rev'd Dr John Davies
*Vicar of Melbourne and
Diocesan Director of Ordinands.*
The Vicarage, Church Square,
Melbourne, Derby, DE73 8JH
E-mail: jhd@rdplus.net



The Rev'd Canon Ian Gooding
*Rector in the parishes of Stanton-by-Dale, Dale
Abbey and Risley, and Rural Dean of Erewash.*
The Rectory, Stanton-by-Dale, Ilkeston,
Derbyshire, DE7 4QA
E-mail: iangooding@zoom.co.uk



The Rev'd Katie Tupling
Curate at St Peter's Church, Belper.
48 Arkwright Avenue, Belper, DE56 OHY
E-mail: kttup@tup-house.freeserve.co.uk

Lay Christians



Mrs Madelaine Goddard
Tel: **01332 348077**
E-mail:
mtg@georgegoddard.wanadoo.co.uk



Mrs Christine McMullen
(also Lay Chair of Buxton Deanery)
Tel: **01298 73997**
E-mail: christine@thenoc.org.uk



Mr Stephen Mitchell
(also Lay Chair for the Glossop Deanery)
Tel: **01457 861097**
E-mail: steveanmitchell@iname.com



*The Rt Rev'd Dr Alastair Redfern, as Bishop of Derby,
is automatically on the General Synod. He can also be
contacted on General Synod business:*

Bishop Alastair
The Bishop of Derby's Office, The Bishop's
House, 6 King Street, Duffield, Belper, DE56 4EU
Tel: **01332 840132**,
E-mail: bishop@bishopofderby.org



A Quick Guide to the General Synod



Issued 2005

This leaflet has been produced to inform you about the purpose and importance of the Church's General Synod and its relevance to the life of your parish church.

It also offers information on how you can find out more, and provides details about your current General Synod representatives.

What is a Synod?

A synod is a formal meeting by which the Church of England is governed. It is comprised of lay and ordained Church of England Christians. Formal meetings of Christians have taken place from the Council of Jerusalem (described in Acts 15) onwards to regulate doctrine and discipline. More locally, synods meet in the various provinces of the Church of England to govern its affairs. There is the General Synod, which is the equivalent of the Church's national Parliament, and Diocesan Synod, which is similar to local Parliament at county level. There are also Deanery Synods, which represent smaller areas within a county, or diocese. In Derby Diocese there are 16 Deaneries.

The General Synod

The General Synod consists of bishops, clergy and lay Christians who meet twice a year (occasionally three times) to make decisions on the doctrine and practice of the Church of England. It votes on the funding for the work of the church centrally. As well as matters of worship and discipline, it also

addresses wider concerns, national and international, and seeks to articulate a Christian approach to the issues of the day. Elected members serve for five years.

Why is it important for me to know about General Synod?

It is important to have an interest in the General Synod and its decision-making processes in the same way that it is important to have an interest in our national Government - because the decisions it makes impact on our day to day lives. The General Synod is a process which seeks input from the Churches on which its decisions will make an impact. Without that interest or input, General Synod operates in a vacuum.

How to have a say in the General Synod

Writing in

You can write to your representatives (see over-leaf) who may then be able to raise your point during a debate.

Through voting elections

Only Deanery Synod members are allowed to vote during General Synod elections. Potential General Synod candidates will have a stand on various issues. Votes for particular candidates will help shape the nature of the General Synod. If you are not a Deanery Synod member, you can not vote, but you can offer your views to a Deanery Synod member who can take this into account in his or her voting.

Through Diocesan Synod Motions

Your Diocesan Synod can put forward a Motion to be discussed. A Diocesan Motion must come before a General Synod, but it may take some time to do so. It begins with an individual suggesting a Motion to their PCC, which is then passed on to their Deanery Synod, then to the Diocesan Synod. Eventually, it may reach General Synod for debate.

Through representatives on General Synod

A suggestion for a Motion can be made to any member of the General Synod. If the member supports the idea, they can send it to the General Synod as a Private Members' Motion.

