

Inaugural Diocesan Synod 28th September 2024

Synod Digest

Members of the new Diocesan Synod met in Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 28th September, to join together in collective worship, receive important induction information, hear about upcoming elections and appointments and to discuss what our faith means to us.

Eucharist

To open the new triennium, the Bishop of Lincoln led Synod in a service of Holy Communion.

Welcome and opening items

Following a break for tea, coffee and to reorganise the furniture for our meeting, Synod reconvened and received a welcome introduction from Bishop Stephen, where he talked about Diocesan Synod as the accountable body for our diocesan life – our mission, our ministry, our financial health, and our spiritual health. A full copy of the bishop's opening speech can be found [here](#).

Synod approved the minutes from the previous meeting, with a number of abstentions from new members, and noted that no questions had been raised in advance under Standing Order 72.

Induction

Muriel Robinson, Chair of the Board of Finance, and David Dadswell, Diocesan Secretary, led Synod in an induction discussion item focussing on engagement and responsibilities. An induction pack for new and returning members had been provided with the papers, which included background information on the purpose of Synod, frequently asked questions and details of how to raise questions and prepare for meetings. During the meeting, Synod were asked to consider in small groups the following questions:

“Why am I a member of Diocesan Synod?”

“What are my responsibilities as a member?”

And finally, “How should I behave to be well engaged?”

Synod considered the importance of acting as a conduit, passing information and concerns both up and down the synodical tree. There was also discussion about the importance of representing all of those we seek to serve, by ensuring we use our voice and contribute to meetings in a respectful and thoughtful manner.

Raising the spiritual temperature: Youth Discussion

Bishop Stephen introduced Micki Carey-Slater, the Diocesan Children, Youth and Families Mission Enabler, who led Synod on a discussion about what our Christian faith means to us personally, after hearing the personal testimonies of a number of young people from around the diocese. We heard from Eve and Vaz through a pre-recorded video message, followed by Adam and Lenny who spoke to Synod in person, about why their faith is important to them. After hearing from these dedicated young Christians, Synod broke into small groups to discuss what struck them most about the testimonies, what the “good news” means to each member personally and what difference it has made to all our lives.

Notice of the forthcoming elections

David Dadswell presented the elections and appointments brochure ([available here](#)) to Synod and confirmed the following vacancies which will be elected at the meeting of Synod in November, including the below:

- Chairs of the Houses
- Diocesan Trustees (Boston Laity, Boston Clergy, Lincoln Clergy)
- Members of the Diocesan Board of Education
- Vacancy in See Committee

Synod were also notified that a number of Diocesan Synod vacancies were available throughout the deaneries and encouraged members to ensure that these positions are filled as soon as possible. The Search and Nominations Committee would be considering Synod co-options as well as various committee and working group memberships towards the end of the year. Details about the co-options and how to get involved can be found [here](#).

Synod closed formally closed with a prayer led by the Bishop of Lincoln.