

YORK DIOCESAN SYNOD
Living Christ's Story

A meeting of the York Diocesan Synod will be held **via Zoom** on **Saturday 29 November 2025** commencing at **9.00am**. The meeting will finish around **1pm**.

Members are reminded that they can ask up to two original questions for answer at Question Time. Questions should be submitted by 4.00pm on **Friday 21 November 2025** to kirsty.mccullough@yorkdiocese.org and comply with the provisions of Standing Orders 69 to 71 as set out on the Notice of the Meeting.

Details of the agenda are given below – suggested timings for major items are shown in brackets.

For social media use #ydsynod

Peter Warry
Diocesan Secretary & Chief Executive
7 November 2025

AGENDA

- 9.00am** 1 **Opening Worship & Presidential Address (25)**
- 2 **Apologies for Absence**
- 3 **Declarations of Interest**
- 4 **Minutes of the meeting held on July 2025 – DS 25/22**
- 5 **Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**
- 6 **Safeguarding Report – DS25/24 (5)**

The Diocesan Secretary will present the Safeguarding Report as received by Archbishop's Council on 3 November 2025.

- 9.45** 7 **Living Christ's Story – DS25/25 (15)**

The Bishop of Selby will give an update on LCS further to the meetings of the Programme Board since July.

10.00 8 Financial Overview and Draft Budget 2025 - DS 25/26 (35)

The Director of Finance will give a financial overview and introduce the draft budget for 2026.

Rodney Barton, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, will move a motion in the following terms:

"This Synod approves the Budget for 2026 as set out in paper DS 25/26 and authorises the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend a sum of £16,702,000 (of which £15,078,000 is from the General Fund) with the facility to draw up to £250,000 of contingency in addition from reserves."

10.40 9 Report on the July Sessions of General Synod (20)

Lucy Gorman and the Revd Dr Christian Selvaratnam will present the report on the July sessions of General Synod, the text of which will form an appendix to the minutes of this meeting.

11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.15 Lectio Divina (15)

11.30 10 Vocations (40)

The Archbishop will introduce the item and invite the Revd Canon Samantha Taylor, our new Diocesan Adviser on Vocations, to reflect on the current state of vocational calling in the Diocese of York within the context of the wider Church after which the Revd Dr David Goodhew will be invited to move a motion in the following terms:

"This Synod welcomes work that has already been done to encourage the ministry of all, lay and ordained, stipendiary or self-supporting but in so doing also expresses concern at the significant decline in the number of people coming forward for ordination in recent years, and the potential long-term impact this may have on the ministry and mission of the Church in this diocese.

This Synod requests the development of a strategy for the encouragement, development and support of all vocations and an opportunity to debate the outworking of that strategy in not more than 2 years' time.

In support of this work, Synod therefore calls on all churches in the Diocese of York to:

- Pray regularly and intentionally for the raising up of ministers, both ordained and lay; and to
- Actively encourage vocations within their congregations and communities."

12.05pm 11 **Question Time (15)**

12.20 12 **Elections 2026 – Deanery Elections and General Synod (15)**

The Diocesan Secretary will outline the election processes for 2026 including:

Parochial Representation on Deanery Synods 2026-2029 - DS 25/27

Peter Warry, Diocesan Secretary and Chief Executive, will introduce paper DS 25/27 and the Chair of the House of Laity will then move a motion in the following terms:

“This Synod agrees that the number of lay representatives elected by each parish to the House of Laity of the Deanery Synod for the triennium 2026 to 2029 shall be as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (i) | Number on ER of Parish | Number of reps
on Deanery Synod |
| | 1-50 | 1 |
| | 51-100 | 2 |
| | 101-200 | 3 |
| | 201-300 | 4 |
| | 301-400 | 5 |
| | 401-500 | 6 |
- (ii) One additional member for each 250 Electoral Roll members above 500
- (iii) For parishes with no fewer than 26 names on the Electoral Roll which include legally constituted District Church Councils, the number of lay representatives shall be the parish entitlement under the above formula or one lay person for each District Church Council within the Parish, whichever number is the greater”

12.35 13 **Good News Item – Children & Youth News (15)**

Angela Brymer, Children and Youth Adviser, will share good news stories from the ongoing work across the diocese in many and varied ways with our children and young people.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(i) ***Archbishop’s Council and Standing Committee Minutes – DS 25/28***

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2025.

(ii) ***LLF Outcomes – DS25/29***

The raw outcomes from the LLF Item taken at the July meeting of Diocesan Synod

(iii) Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 14 March 2026 in person – venue tbc

(iv) Reporting Back to Deanery Synods and Parishes

Notes from the Synod meeting on Saturday 29 November will be made available on the Diocesan website to help you report back to your Deanery Synods and PCCs. The notes will be available by Friday, 5 December at www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/synodnotes.

12.50

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Closing Words and Prayers – The Archbishop