

General Synod: February 2016

Group work

The purpose of the group work is to enable Synod members to bring their own experience of and insights about evangelism to bear on the report of the Archbishops' Task Group, so that the work of encouraging evangelism across the Church might be enriched.

The groups will begin with worship and prayer, led by a member of the House of Bishops. Each group will then be facilitated by a diocesan evangelism/mission staff member or by a member of the Task Group itself.

Synod members are encouraged to prepare for the group work by praying thorough and considering their responses to the questions below, as well as by bringing other questions and comments about the work of evangelism in today's Church. This will hopefully permit the most to be made of the time.

After the opening worship, the time is to be spent in four areas:

Sharing Stories

Each group will divide into 4-5 smaller groups (of 4-5 people each). In these smaller groups Members are invited to share:

- ❖ when and how they feel that their Christian faith first became their own,
- ❖ what happened, and
- ❖ how old they were at the time.
- ❖ Members are also invited to consider whether the stories they are share are unusual or more typical of others in the local Christian community of which they are a part.

Reconvening the whole group, the facilitator will gather the learning and draw out one or two stories and possible themes.

Fruitful and energising

Members then return into smaller groups to consider:

- ❖ when, for you personally, has sharing your faith been most fruitful and energising?

This is followed similarly by a facilitated time as a whole group.

Challenge and response

Members then return once again into the smaller groups to consider:

- ❖ what are the biggest challenges you find in evangelism in your context, and
- ❖ as members of Synod how can we help one another and the wider Church to address these challenges?

This is followed by a final time of facilitated plenary.

Prayer

The group concludes with a time of prayer in which each member is invited to pray for someone they know to respond to the love of Jesus Christ. This time is led by the Bishop.