

What is a DSM?

Diocesan Synod Motions (DSMs) are motions passed by diocesan synods that have been referred to the General Synod. Once a DSM has been referred to the General Synod it will not come off the Agenda until it is either debated or withdrawn by the proposing diocese.

Current DSMs

Anglican Communion Covenant

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Manchester Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod:

- (a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason;
- (b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and
- (c) call on the House of Bishops:
 - (i) to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England's involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);
 - (ii) to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and
 - (iii) to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference. '

March 2012

NB: Bath & Wells, Chelmsford, Lincoln, London, Oxford and St Albans Diocesan Synods have now withdrawn their DSM on the Anglican Communion

[The Manchester, Newcastle and Worcester Diocesan Synods passed a motion in identical terms.]

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Southwark Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod:

(a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason, all as set out in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the draft Anglican Communion Covenant;

(b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and

(c) call on the House of Bishops:

(i) to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England's involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);

(ii) to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and

(iii) to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference.'

March 2012

Liturgies for same-sex couples

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Hereford Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod:

request the House of Bishops to commend an Order of Prayer and Dedication after the registration of a civil partnership or a same sex marriage for use by ministers in exercise of their discretion under Canon B5, being a form of service neither contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of England in any essential matter, together with guidance that no parish should be obliged to host, nor minister conduct, such a service.'

March 2018 (*following an amendment to the Diocesan Synod Motion submitted in November 2017*)

The wealth gap between rich and poor

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Leeds Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod call on Her Majesty's Government (and all political parties) to adopt an explicit policy of reducing the wealth gap between the rich and the poor and the disadvantages that flow from it.

June 2018

Review of qualifications for PCC membership and entry on the church electoral roll

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Canterbury Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod invite the Archbishops' Council:

(a) to conduct a review of:

(i) the qualifications for membership of parochial church councils, in the light of the existence of bishops' mission initiatives; and

(ii) the qualifications for enrolment on a church electoral roll, and the form of application for enrolment, in the light of the experience of parishes in the diocese that those who attend church regularly do not necessarily understand them; and

(b) to report to the Synod on the conclusions of the review.

July 2018

Challenging slavery and human trafficking

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Durham Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

(a) acknowledge the leading role that Her Majesty's Government has played internationally in challenging slavery; and

(b) ask Her Majesty's Government to introduce legislation to ensure proper provision for the ongoing support and protection of trafficked minors is enshrined in law.

July 2018

Insurance Premium Tax

In more detail

... to move on behalf of the Lincoln Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod, noting:

1. the various public goods that are delivered by charities, including in the case of churches through their care of nationally valued heritage assets and their provision of community services; and
2. the fact that the money needed by charities to meet their liabilities, including Insurance Premium Tax, has to be raised by them, including in the case of churches through fund raising in their local communities

call on Her Majesty's Government to exempt charities, including churches, from liability for Insurance Premium Tax.

April 2019

Persecuted Church

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Lichfield Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod request that:

- (a) the Church of England not only pray for the persecuted church, but that its dioceses offer support to link dioceses where the church is facing persecution, and
- (b) the next Lambeth Conference addresses the issue of the persecution of Christians.

July 2019

Reduce Parochial Fees for Marriages

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Blackburn Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod call on the Archbishops' Council:

to introduce an order to amend the Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2019 so that the fees relating to marriages are set at nil or at a minimal amount in order to demonstrate the Church's commitment to marriage and pastoral care.

March 2020

Prisoner Rehabilitation Schemes

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Worcester Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod, recognising that faith can have a positive impact on an offender's behaviour:

- a. note with pleasure the decision made by the National Probation Service to recognise faith as a protective factor in reducing reoffending, and its desire to work in partnership with churches, prison and community chaplains and faith communities to support rehabilitation;
- b. commend the value of partnership working with the National Probation Service as an important additional support in churches' welcome of people leaving prison, including training of clergy and authorised lay ministers;
- c. call on dioceses to nominate a contact person or office to link the Probation Service locally to clergy, parishes and chaplaincies.

March 2020

Responding to the Climate Emergency

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod, affirming the fifth mark of mission, concerned by the scientific evidence that climate change is proceeding at a rapid rate and by the impact of climate events, and seeking to build on the decisions taken with respect to GS 2159:

- a) urge the National Investing Bodies of the Church of England to prioritise investment in renewable energy;
- b) call on all parts of the Church of England to review their policies and procedures, in order to ensure that they give due priority to creation care;
- c) urge the Church of England to further develop pre- and post-ordination and lay training to deepen understanding in how care for the earth is part of our Christian faith and a missional imperative;
- d) urge all parts of the Church of England to seek to support, through prayer, advocacy and practical action, the poorest in the world who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change, in the awareness that our nation has been among those who have benefited most from the emissions that have caused the crisis;
- e) commit earnestly and regularly to pray - and to promote prayer - about the climate and wider environmental crisis.

f) call upon all institutions of the Church of England to make urgent practical preparations for the delivery of substantial reduction of the Church's carbon footprint, including, but not restricted to, the following immediate actions in respect of Church buildings:

(i) ensuring that the NCIs are adequately resourced to provide DACs, Buildings Departments, Education Departments and others with authoritative national guidance notes, advice and training on key technical and procedural questions relating to adaptation of buildings for the net zero target; and

(ii) ensuring that Parish Buying and other national-level entities have the capacity to engage with manufacturers and suppliers of products and processes recommended for making our buildings more efficient, with a view to using the scale of the national net zero project to achieve both sympathetic design and economies of scale on cost.

April 2020

[Back to top](#)

Diocesan Synod Motions are listed under the General Synod's Special Agenda IV. The other Special Agendas are: Legislative Business (Special Agenda I); Liturgical Business (Special Agenda II); and Private Members Motions (Special Agenda III).

Diocesan Synod

Body consisting of clergy and lay representatives elected from across the diocese

General Synod

The 'Parliament' of the Church of England. The General Synod usually meets twice a year to debate and discuss matters of interest and to consider and approve amendments to Church legislation.

Anglican Communion

Global family of Anglican Churches whose links include their relationship to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Related Links

[Vicar presiding and preparing for the Eucharist in church at altar](#)

Image not found or type unknown

[Liturgical Business](#)

[A list of liturgical business currently on the General Synod's Agenda](#)



Private Members' Motions

A list of proposed Private Members' Motions to the General Synod

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/general-synod-meetings/diocesan-synod-motions>