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 Once a DSM has been referred to the General Synod it will not come off the Agenda until it is either debated or withdrawn by the proposing diocese.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

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)

Insurance Premium Tax

Motion detail

â€œto 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 Majestyâ€™s Government to exempt charities, including churches, from liability for Insurance Premium Tax.
April 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

Eco-Diocese Programme

Motion detail

that this Synod, following the motion passed by this Synod in February 2020, which recognises that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God’s creation and a fundamental injustice and which calls on all parts of the Church of England, including dioceses and parishes, to work towards net zero emissions, request that every diocese register with A Rocha UK for the Eco-Diocese Programme.

April 2020

Eco-Diocese Programme

Motion detail

That this Synod, following the motion passed by this Synod in February 2020, which recognises that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God’s creation and a fundamental injustice and which calls on all parts of the Church of England, including dioceses and parishes, to work towards net zero emissions, request that every diocese register with A Rocha UK for the Eco-Diocese Programme.
December 2020

Parochial Fees

**Motion detail**

To move on behalf of London Diocesan Synod

That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council to lay a draft order before the Synod to amend the Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2019 so that a fee payable to the parochial church council is prescribed in respect of funeral services that take place at crematoria and cemeteries.

March 2021

Future of Work

**Motion detail**

To move on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

(a) affirm the dignity and value of purposeful work as a significant component of human flourishing

(b) endorse and commend the five principles used for evaluating fair and dignified platform work in the gig economy by Fair.work and

(c) call for the Faith and Order Commission (FAOC) together with Mission and Public Affairs Committee to advise on what is essential to purposeful, dignified, and fair work in the context of the fourth industrial revolution now in progress.

March 2021

Kairos Palestine

**Motion detail**

To move on behalf of the Carlisle Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

(a) endorse the “Cry for Hope” expressed by Palestinian Christians and the “Global Kairos for Justice” coalition (GKfJ);
request that the Faith and Order Commission produce a report which analyses and refutes any theological justifications, for example, those promoted by some Christian Zionists, for the oppression of Palestinians

b. instruct the Ethical Investment Advisory Group to provide guidance to the National Investing Bodies (NIBs) and Dioceses that will enable them to screen their investments and thereby make decisions regarding engagement with, and divestment from, companies which profit from the occupation.

March 2021

Code of Conduct for PCC’s

Motion detail

† to move on behalf of Chelmsford Diocesan Synod:

† That this Synod request that General Synod request the Archbishops’ Council to carry out a review to consider:

1. the possibility of drawing up a Code of Conduct for PCC members and lay volunteers,
2. the issues required to put in place a disciplinary process for their removal from the PCC in cases where this is not followed,
3. the resources required at national, diocesan and parish level to bring this about.

June 2022

Day of prayer and action for the persecuted church

Motion detail

... to move on behalf of London Diocesan Synod:

† ‘That this Synod, in the light of the motion passed at the February 2022 Group of Sessions relating to the persecuted Church (i.e. item 18 on the Agenda, as amended), request the Archbishops’ Council to work ecumenically with other churches to establish a national day of prayer and action for the persecuted Church around the world.

August 2022

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

A list of liturgical business currently on the General Synod’s Agenda

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

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