

Throughout the course of a year there are a number of meetings that bishops attend that help further the work of the Church of England.

Archbishop of Canterbury laughing with lady in church
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Diocese of Derby

Bishops

- Archbishops – Diocesan bishops who have pastoral responsibility for their province
- Diocesan bishops – chief pastors of their diocese
- Other bishops – primarily suffragan bishops but also area bishops who are appointed to work with diocesan bishops to help with the pastoral responsibility for the diocese.
- **PEV's** (Provisional Episcopal Visitors) – four suffragan bishops who have a special responsibility to support parishes that have petitioned under the **Episcopal** Ministry Act of Synod 1993.

House of Bishops' Standing Committee

The role of the Standing Committee is to set agendas for the House of Bishops meetings; represent the House of Bishops in discussions with other faiths and to deal with certain matters on behalf of the House of Bishops.

The Standing Committee is made up of eight members:

- Archbishop of Canterbury
- Archbishop of York

and either

- The two bishops elected as members of the Archbishops' Council on the basis that one of them serves as the Business Committee Chair
 - If this is not possible then one of the Council bishops and the bishop elected onto the Business Committee
- One bishop from the elected Church Commissioners
- The Chair to the Faith and Order Commission
- One bishop elected from the House of Bishops

- One appointed by the Archbishops
- One female bishop elected

House of Bishops' Delegation Committee

The Delegation Committee considers general issues such as mission, ministry and matters of general public policy, the Committee will look at all business relating to the following bodies:

- Ecumenical business arising from the Council for Christian Unity
- The Education Division/National Society
- Ministry Council
- Business from the Faith and Order Commission

The members of the Delegation Committee are:

- Bishop of Blackburn
- Bishop at Lambeth
- Bishop of Lichfield
- Bishop of Liverpool
- Bishop of Sherborne
- Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
- Bishop of Willesden

House of Bishops

The House of Bishops is one of three Houses that make up the General Synod, all members of the House of Bishops are members of the General Synod. They meet separately to talk about issues such as episcopal ministry, mission and national issues that affect the Church.

- The House of Bishops meet in May and December outside of General Synod
- Under Article 7 of the Constitution of General Synod, the House of Bishops has a special role with matters relating to doctrine, liturgy or Sacrament. Also, it has the right to amend legislation as it sees fit before the legislation is put before the General Synod for approval
- Female suffragan bishops (who are not members of the House) and PEV's can attend and speak at these meetings, however, they are not allowed to vote.

The House of Bishops is made up of:

- All diocesan bishops including the offshore dioceses of Sodor and Man and Gibraltar in Europe
- The Bishop of Dover
- The Bishop to the Armed Forces
- Nine elected suffragan bishops

In addition, six elected female suffragan bishops and 3 Provincial Episcopal Visitors attend and speak at meetings of the House, but are unable to vote

The six female bishops are:

- Bishop of Aston
- Bishop of Dorking
- Bishop of Hull
- Bishop of Ripon
- Bishop of Sherborne
- Bishop of Taunton

The three Provincial Episcopal Visitors are:

- Bishop of Ebbsfleet
- Bishop of Richborough
- Bishop of Maidstone

(The Bishop of Fulham is one of the seven suffragan bishops of the House)

College of Bishops

All serving bishops in the Church of England are members of the College of Bishops. The College of Bishops meet in January and September.

Other Bishops' meetings

The following bodies report to the House of Bishops:

- ACRBRC (Advisory Council on the Relations of Bishops and Religious Communities)

- [Broken Rites](#)
- [Bishops' Visitors](#)

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Summary of Decisions

- [Summary of Decisions - May 2017](#)
- [Summary of Decisions - Dec. 2016](#)
- [Summary of Decisions - May 2016](#)
- [Summary of Decisions - Dec. 2015](#)
- [Summary of Decisions - May 2015](#)

Safeguarding

- [Protecting All God's Children](#)
- [Responding Well to those who have been sexually abused](#)

If you require any further information or documents relating to safeguarding, please visit the safeguarding section of the website

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Key documents from the House of Bishops

- [Affirming our Common Humanity](#)
- [Extended Communion Guidelines](#)
- [Guidelines on Deliverance Ministry](#)

- [Human Sexuality](#)
- [Marriage - A teaching document](#)
- [Marriage after divorce and ordained ministry](#)
- [Marriage in Church after Divorce](#)
- [Marriage Measure 2008 Guidance](#)
- [Marriage of persons from outside the EEA](#)
- [UKBA Guidance for clergy](#)

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Province

Area of the Church under the authority of an archbishop – consisting of a number of dioceses. Hence 'Province of Canterbury' (Southern Province), 'Province of York' (Northern Province).

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