

To New Diocesan Synod Members

August 2015

Dear Colleague

Many congratulations on your election to Diocesan Synod. As a member of the new Synod you will be taking part in very important work on behalf of the parishes of the diocese and, sometimes, in very significant issues which the Church of England is facing nationally, not least through the Reform and Renewal Programme.

As Bishop John wrote three years ago

‘Synodical government is a well tested method of holding together the wisdom of clergy and laity with their bishops in order to discern the mind of Christ for the dioceses and to provide oversight of resources for the various elements of our life together. The model is one of Bishop-in-Synod depending on each other to discern how best to fulfil God’s calling in our time. Diocesan Synod looks in two directions. It looks to the parishes and deaneries in one direction and to General Synod in the other. Members of Diocesan Synod therefore have key responsibilities as channels of communication in these relationships’.

The next three years also promise to be fascinating ones, not only as we continue to work out the implications of Living Faith for our corporate life as a diocese, but also as we welcome a new bishop around this time next year and get to know the riches he or she will bring to our life together. Link those to the rapid changes that are taking place in the fields of evangelism, education, inter-faith relationships and partnership working and we should be in for an exciting time.

On Wednesday 9th September we have what we believe will be an interesting and valuable induction session in St Aldate’s Parish Centre, followed by an inaugural eucharist in the Cathedral. There will be plenty of important material relevant to your role on Synod and in Diocesan life. This should make a valuable start to our deliberations.

Thank you very much for being prepared to carry these responsibilities. I hope they will be interesting and enjoyable and that you will feel you know you have a key role in the future of the Diocese, both by being a member of Diocesan Synod and perhaps of one of its Boards, Councils and Committees.

With all good wishes

Yours in Christ

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