

FROM THE BISHOP OF OXFORD
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To all Diocesan Synod members

August 2018

Dear Colleague

Many congratulations on your election to the new Diocesan Synod and warm thanks for being willing to serve the church in the Diocese of Oxford in this way. I look forward very much to working with you over the next three years.

The Synod will begin with an induction evening and service on Monday 17th September at St Aldates followed by a Eucharist in the Cathedral. Practical arrangements will be sent out by the Diocesan Secretary. We very much hope that not only new members of synod will attend this induction but also existing members as we look ahead at the new developments in the work we will be engaging with at future synod meetings.

As you know, over the last two years we have been engaged in a process of discernment around two questions: What kind of Church are we called to be? What are we therefore called to do together?

Our answer to the first question is now very clear: our calling is to be a more Christ like Church for the sake of God's world: more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous. We are still working on our answer to the second question. My Presidential Address to the Diocesan Synod in June attempted to sum up where we had reached at that point. The Bishop's Council spent a day together in July and worked through the proposals from each of our working groups in some detail. A large part of the work of the new Diocesan Synod will be overseeing and taking forward our emerging vision and strategy. For further information about the Common Vision process, please visit the diocesan website following the link:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/projects/towards-a-common-vision/>

Our exploration of what it means to be a more Christ like church will continue in the coming year by reading together and dwelling in two short passages from Colossians: 1.15-20 and 3.12-17. Might I suggest that we prepare for our life together as a new Diocesan Synod by reading and reflecting on these passages over the coming months as we look together to the future. You may also want to think and pray about offering to serve on the various Boards, Councils and Committees of the Synod which will be elected in the autumn.

With kind regards



