

Meetings of the General Synod, Committees and Commissions

1. The frequency and length of meetings of the full General Synod follow a regular pattern of two (or occasionally three) meetings in a calendar year.
2. Meetings are in February, July and (if needed) November. February and November meetings are non-residential and held at Church House, Westminster. July meetings are residential and held at the University of York.
3. The Synod considers a range of legal business, reports and other papers. Members are expected to read a considerable volume of material and will wish to set aside sufficient time before meetings begin to read the relevant papers. It has also been the usual practice of members of the Synod from the Diocese to have a preparatory meeting shortly before each group of sessions.
4. The weeks in which the meetings are held each year are fixed by a Synod resolution passed no later than the July meeting of the previous year. The Business Committee of the General Synod then informs Synod members in the agenda for each meeting of the precise dates (within the pre-arranged weeks) on which the Synod will meet, in the light of the needs of the agenda.
5. A February meeting usually spans up to five weekdays and the daily sitting hours usually run from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 to 7.00 p.m.
6. In York, residential meetings are usually held over a weekend from Friday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon. The Synod does not transact business on the Sunday morning during a weekend residential meeting. Instead, by invitation of the Dean and Chapter, members can attend a Sung Eucharist in York Minster.
7. The dates so far agreed for Synod meetings in 2026-2031 are—
2026
Monday 16th November – Wednesday 18th November

2027
Monday 22nd – Friday 26th February
Friday 9th July – Tuesday 13th July
Monday 15th November – Wednesday 17th November (if required)

2028

Monday 14th February – Tuesday 22nd February

Friday 7th July – Tuesday 11th July

Monday 20th November - Wednesday 22nd November (if required)

2029

Monday 19th February – Tuesday 27th February

Friday 6th July – Tuesday 10th July

Monday 19th November – Wednesday 21st November (if required).

8. It is preferred that members attend Synod meetings in person. However, if circumstances prevent this, members can participate remotely by Zoom.
9. Members are not required to record their attendance at any full meeting and do not have to attend a minimum number of meetings. It rests with each individual to do the best they can in the light of other commitments and particular concerns in each Synod agenda. The Business Committee does, however, try as far as possible to help members by ensuring that particular items of business begin at published times.
10. Members may be invited by the Appointments Committee to serve on permanent or temporary bodies but are entirely free to decline. Individual members' preferences are carefully taken into account in fixing dates of committee meetings and every effort is made by the Appointments Committee to share out the committee work fairly among members who are qualified to deal with the tasks to be undertaken.
11. The Synod calls the sittings in Full Synod on one day a "session" and any number of sessions on consecutive days a "group of sessions". But this is only a matter of terminology and has no bearing on the frequency or length of sessions.
12. Those elected from the Diocese to the General Synod also become *ex officio* members of the diocesan synod, and are also members of their archdeaconry or deanery synod and chaplaincy church council. Prospective candidates (especially those who are not already members of those bodies) may wish to consider the responsibilities and time commitment involved in the respective roles.