

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS 2026-2031 FURTHER INFORMATION

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 are held at Church House, Westminster. July meetings are residential and are held at the University of York.
3. Members will wish to set aside time to read before meetings begin sufficient time to read the relevant papers.
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 16 November – Wednesday 18 November
Saturday 12 December – Online meeting to be confirmed

2027

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

2028

Monday 14 February – Tuesday 22 February
Friday 7 July – Tuesday 11 July
Monday 20 November - Wednesday 22 November (if required)

2029

Monday 19 February – Tuesday 27 February
Friday 6 July – Tuesday 10 July
Monday 19 November – Wednesday 21 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 refuse. 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.