

<b>Agenda ref</b>	2.2
<b>Report title</b>	How we can hold a safe and welcome space for all at this Synod
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## **How we can hold a safe and welcome space for all at this Synod**

We want this special Diocesan Synod to be safe and welcoming for everyone.

We have planned the agenda and will endeavour to create an environment where differences are handled with respect across a broad range of views.

As members of Christ's body, we commit to the following whenever we speak, listen, or decide together on matters of sexuality, relationships, and the Prayers of Love and Faith:

1. We honour each person's dignity:  
Everyone present is made in the image of God, with a story that matters. We will not belittle, stereotype, or dismiss another person because of their convictions or lived experience
2. We speak openly with grace and sincerity:  
We will share our views honestly, but with compassion, avoiding language that wounds or shames
3. We listen to understand:  
We will give our full attention to those speaking, seeking to hear their heart as well as their words, even if we profoundly disagree
4. We acknowledge diversity within the Church of England:  
We recognise that faithful Anglicans hold differing views on same-sex relationships and the Prayers of Love and Faith, and that such differences are permitted within our Church

5. We make space for conscience:  
No one will be compelled to act against their theological convictions, and no one will be excluded for holding or expressing a faithful view that differs from the majority
6. We avoid personal attacks:  
We will speak about ideas and beliefs, not about the worth or motives of individuals
7. We practise restraint in disagreement:  
We will not interrupt, monopolise discussion, or use our voices or positions to intimidate others
8. We commit to ongoing relationships:  
Our unity in Christ is deeper than any difference between us. We will continue to worship, pray, and serve together, trusting that God holds us in His love even when we disagree  
We will offer appropriate support and care to those who are affected by these discussions both in the moment and after the meeting