

# Ivybridge Deanery - 2026 Triennium Standing Orders

Revd Mike Harman (Rural Dean)      Nicholas Courtman (Lay Chair)

1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

Faithfully serving the parishes  
and communities within the  
Deanery by providing a network  
of fellowship and support, to  
grow, pray and serve.

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*Deanery Vision Statement*

These Standing Orders are drawn up under the authority of the Church Representation Rules (CRR) Part 3 and the Diocese of Exeter Rules for Deanery Synods 2020 (the Exeter Rules), which provide that, subject to those rules, a deanery synod may determine its own procedure. These Standing Orders add local detail to the CRR and Exeter Rules and should be read alongside both documents.

## 1. Meeting programme

The Standing Committee shall meet before the final Deanery Synod meeting of each year to agree the dates and chair for all Deanery Synod meetings in the following year. Dates so agreed shall be circulated to all members promptly (CRR V.3).

## 2. Agenda preparation

The agenda for each business meeting shall be agreed by the Standing Committee using the standard agenda template (see SO 14). This agreement may be reached by email; a formal meeting of the Standing Committee before each Deanery Synod meeting is not required.

## 3. Meeting pattern

The Deanery Synod shall ordinarily meet four times per year according to the following seasonal pattern. Where a meeting falls in a year affected by boundary changes, the Standing Committee shall review this pattern as necessary.

Season	Month	Format	Venue	Character
<b>Winter</b>	January	Zoom, evening	N/A	Business meeting. Simple prayers at start and end.
<b>Spring</b>	March or April	In person	Church, rotating Mission Communities	Business meeting. Concludes with Compline.
<b>Summer</b>	June or July	In person, afternoon	Pub, rotating Mission Communities	Business meeting. Concludes with prayer or a short act of worship.
<b>Autumn</b>	September or October	In person	Rotating Mission Communities	Social event open to all members, PCC members, and congregations within the Deanery. Concludes with Compline. Not a business meeting.

#### **4. Meeting character**

At all business meetings, three quarters of the time shall be given to business and one quarter to worship. A speaker or knowledge update shall be present at all business meetings.

#### **5. Open portion of meetings**

The opening prayer, apologies, and speaker or knowledge update (agenda items 1 to 3) are designated as open to relevant PCC members and others under Exeter Rules V.12. The Chair may invite non-members to withdraw before the remainder of the business meeting if the business to follow is sensitive. The Chair retains discretion over whether non-members may speak.

#### **6. Standing Committee as Deanery Pastoral Committee**

The Standing Committee shall also act as the Deanery Pastoral Committee. Where pastoral business is to be discussed, the Standing Committee meeting shall be held in person.

#### **7. Minutes**

Minutes of each meeting shall be circulated to the Standing Committee as soon as practicable after the meeting for the purpose of correction. Approved minutes shall then be sent to all Deanery members and to the secretary of each PCC within one week of the meeting (CRR V.11).

#### **8. Diocesan and General Synod reports**

Reports from members of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod shall appear as a standing item on the agenda of every business meeting. On completion, reports shall also be circulated directly to all Deanery Synod representatives and PCC secretaries (Exeter Rules VII.2).

#### **9. Communications**

A communication shall be sent to all parishes twice each year, comprising a deanery update and a prayer diary.

#### **10. Apologies**

Members unable to attend a meeting shall submit their apologies to the Lay Chair or Secretary by email at least two hours before the meeting is due to begin.

#### **11. Parish reports**

At each business meeting, each parish is encouraged to bring a brief report of one success or piece of good news that aligns with one of the Diocese of Exeter's five strategic priorities. Full details of each priority are available at <https://exeter.anglican.org/our-five-strategic-priorities/>; the five priorities are:

- (i) Missional Leadership
- (ii) Missional DNA
- (iii) Vocations
- (iv) Children and Young People
- (v) Mixed Ecology

Reports shall be kept brief so that all parishes have the opportunity to contribute within the time available.

#### **12. Secretary vacancy**

Where no Secretary has been elected (CRR VI.1c), the Lay Chair shall manage the deanery mailing lists. The taking of minutes shall fall to a person agreed by the Standing Committee. If that person is unavailable, the duty shall rotate among Standing Committee members who are not chairing the meeting.

#### **13. House of Laity vacancies**

Where vacancies exist in the House of Laity (CRR III.1a), the Lay Chair shall endeavour to have those posts filled. The Rural Dean shall likewise encourage all deanery clergy posts to be filled.

#### **14. Standard agenda**

The Deanery Synod shall conduct its business meetings in accordance with the standard agenda template. The template is a procedural instrument prepared by the Standing Committee under its authority to plan meetings and prepare agendas (Exeter Rules VIII.1(a)), and shall be ratified by

the Standing Committee. Once ratified, the standard agenda template shall be read as part of these Standing Orders.

**15. Issues and actions**

The deanery shall maintain a register of issues and actions. All live issues shall appear on the agenda of each business meeting until they are resolved or formally deferred. The register shall be available to all members.

**16. Amendment of Standing Orders**

These Standing Orders may be amended by a simple majority of those present and voting at any business meeting of the Deanery Synod, provided that the proposed amendment has been circulated to all members at least seven days before the meeting (CRR V.5).