

**DIOCESAN SYNOD**

Title: **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION BRIEFING**

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A briefing on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be provided at the November Synod. The GDPR, which takes effect on 25 May 2018, will make significant changes to the current data protection legislation. These changes apply to clergy and Parochial Church Councils in the same way as they do to any other organisation or body.

Although the GDPR will be based largely on the principles underpinning the current data protection law, it puts a much greater emphasis on compliance, accountability and transparency. It provides individuals with new rights. It also defines consent on a much more affirmative basis. Needless to say there has been a huge change in technological capability since the 1998 Data Protection Act as well as a growing concern over marketing, privacy and identity theft. Much of the new legislation is aimed at reducing that.

The briefing will set out some of the key headlines, give some pointers as to actions clergy and PCCs need to start thinking about and signpost resources that will be helpful.

The Information Commissioners Office website sets out some useful background information steps that can be taken now to prepare for the GDPR - <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/>

More detailed guidance from the National Church will also be available in due course.

Whilst compliance for processing of data within parishes is the responsibility of the clergy and PCC as individual data controllers, support is available through me. Training events are planned for early 2018 and I hope to be in a position to share the details of the training at the Synod meeting.