



Society for
**Ecumenical
Studies**

Spring webinar

The Catholic synodal process: does this expand the horizons for the ecumenical movement in Britain?

7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 30 April 2025 online

Cost £5 (Free for Society for Ecumenical Studies members)

Booking at <https://Thecatholicsynodalprocess.eventbrite.co.uk>

The Catholic Church's synodal process, initiated by Pope Francis in 2021 is a multi-year, global journey of listening, dialogue and discernment, to help the Church better understand and fulfil its mission. This webinar will seek to explore the implications of this process for the wider Church family in Britain, and especially its impact upon the search for Christian unity. Synodality and ecumenism both rely on the same style of walking together into an uncertain future, learning from one another in dialogue, forging unity without diluting difference, and discerning collaboratively how to meet the challenges of our times for the common good.

Speakers:

Bishop Nicholas Hudson was ordained Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Westminster in 2014. He is Titular Bishop of St Germans.

Bishop Nicholas has responsibility for the pastoral care of fifty-five parishes in Central and East London, spanning the Deaneries of Camden, Hackney, Islington, Marylebone, Tower Hamlets and Westminster. He also has oversight in Westminster Diocese of the Agency for Evangelisation, Marriage & Family Life, Young People, and Justice & Peace. He read History at Cambridge University. He then completed six years' study of philosophy and theology at the Venerable English College, Rome, concluding with a Licence in Fundamental Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University. Bishop Nicholas was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Southwark in 1986 by Archbishop Michael Bowen in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Wimbledon. He served as assistant priest in St Thomas of Canterbury in Canterbury for his first appointment. Following further studies at the Catholic University of Leuven in Religious Education, Catechesis and Evangelization, he was appointed Director of the Southwark Christian Education Centre in 1992.

In 2000 he was appointed Vice-Rector and in 2004 Rector of the Venerable English College, Rome, where he served until 2013.

Immediately prior to his ordination as Bishop, he was parish priest of the Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon, the parish where he was baptised and later ordained.

Bishop Nicholas considers his to be a deeply ecumenical family. His father was an Anglican when he married a French Catholic; and became a Catholic himself ten years

later. Bishop Nicholas is the great-grandson of an Anglican priest and great-nephew to +Noel Hudson, Bishop of Newcastle then of Ely.

Within the Bishops' Conference, Bishop Hudson chairs the [Department for International Affairs](#), is Moderator of the [Holy Land Coordination](#) and an observer to the [Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community](#) (COMECE). He was recently elected Episcopal Secretary of the Bishops' Conference. He was a papal nominee to the Synod on Synodality which took place in Rome in October 2023 and October 2024.

Isabelle Hamley is an Anglican priest, writer and speaker, currently principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge. She has held posts as parish priest, university chaplain, chaplain to the archbishop of Canterbury and theological advisor to the House of Bishops. Her published works include *The Bible and Mental Health*, *Embracing Justice*, *God of Justice and Mercy: A Theological Commentary on the book of Judges*, and *Struggling with God* (together with Chris Cook and John Swinton).

Formerly an Anglican, **Elaine Green** has been a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) for over 40 years. She now lives in Suffolk and worships with the Bury St Edmunds Quaker Local Meeting

She serves currently as Clerk to the Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations of Quakers in Britain. In the recent past, Elaine has held positions within her church as Clerk to Ipswich & Diss Area Meeting Trustees, member of the national Quaker World Relations Committee and representative on the Quaker Council for European Affairs (Brussels) and Quaker United Nations Organisation (Geneva). Closer to home, she has served as the local Quaker Meeting representative (and Treasurer) of Bury St Edmunds & District Churches Together group.

Quakers do not adhere to traditional ecclesiology or liturgy, and the terms “synodal process” and “synodality” are not generally familiar to them. In ecumenical exchanges on this aspect of faith and order, Elaine sees clearly how synodality is deeply rooted in Quaker theology and practice and fundamental to how Quakers everywhere reach their communal decisions. Indeed, it is a feature of Quaker identity as a national and world faith.

David Carter, the son of British Methodist lay missionaries, was born in 1944. He has been a Local Preacher since 1966 and was the secretary of the Theology and Unity Group of Churches Together in England from 1995-2016 and a member of the British Roman Catholic-Methodist dialogue from 1990 to 2013. He taught in schools and the Open University from 1967-2012 and is the author of a book on Methodist ecclesiology and many articles on ecumenical themes. His wife and daughter are both Methodist ministers. He has a particular interest in and appreciation of the Roman Catholic and Lutheran traditions and has enjoyed fruitful contacts with Belgian Catholics and, more recently, American and continental Lutherans.