



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

# Deanery Synod Lay Representatives Elections 2020

*Walking* with Jesus and getting  
to know Jesus better as we journey on

*Welcoming* all, embracing our diversity and  
seeking new ways of being church

*Growing* in numbers, generosity, faith and  
discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom

**Making Deaneries Viable Centres of Mission  
and Partners in the Gospel**



**Hearts  
on Fire**

Loving God  
Walking with Jesus  
Led by the Spirit

## What are Deaneries?

Deaneries are groups of parishes in a geographical area and form an important bridge between parishes and the wider church, including the Diocese. Churches within a Deanery work together, supporting each other and sharing resources, as well as information on Mission Action Plans and Parish Support Fund pledges.

For example, some deaneries in our Diocese are already: employing a shared youth worker, running a joint healing ministry, services and study days, organising events and training locally for lay people etc.

## What are Deanery Synods?

Deanery Synods are the formal meetings of a Deanery which focus on the mission and ministry in the area as well as providing a channel for the sharing of information, with presentations, discussions and debate of the issues that matter to your local worshipping communities. The Deanery Synod comprises both clergy and lay members, i.e. those that are not clergy.

Since 2018, the Diocese of Southwark has also been encouraging the development of Deanery Leadership Teams, to provide even more opportunities for local lay leaders to work in partnership with each other and with clergy to develop local initiatives for their communities and to support the Diocesan growth objectives. This means that in some deaneries, the formal meetings of a deanery synod are covered as part of the Deanery Leadership team.

Occasionally Synods are required to take formal decisions, sometimes by means of a vote.

All licensed and beneficed clergy in a Deanery are automatically members of their Deanery Synod but crucially, there are also lay members and every three years, churches elect Deanery representatives at their Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

As well as serving in their Deaneries on behalf of their parishes, lay representatives on Deanery Synods form the electorate for the House of Laity on both the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod which is the National Synod. Elections to General Synod next take place in Autumn 2020. Becoming elected to a deanery synod is therefore significant, especially locally, but also in a much larger way.

## What next?

If you're interested in becoming one of your church's representatives on Deanery Synod, talk to your current representatives, Deanery Lay Chair, Vicar or Area Dean ahead of the next elections at your APCM in 2020. The number of Deanery Synod members that each parish can have is based on the 2019 electoral rolls and is notified to your PCC Secretary.



## What skills do representatives need?

**Vision:** for Christian faith and discipleship that is flourishing and growing the wider church - working together

**Commitment:** seeking God's will through prayer, listening and studying together, a heart for growth, mission and engagement across boundaries

**Enthusiasm:** for speaking and challenging confidently, enabling change whilst leading and encouraging others

**Openness:** to trying new approaches while learning from others, embracing change and the bigger picture

**Effective Communicator:** including a listening ear and being receptive and open-minded with the ability to share your passion, sharing inspiring feedback to your PCC and wider church family.

It is important that the Deanery Synod, as any representative body, reflects the diversity of our church congregations; in gender, ethnic origin, age, experience and church tradition and we welcome and encourage a diverse membership.

**Do you have - or could you develop - some of these qualities to serve our Diocese of Southwark?**

If so, think about becoming your parish's representative on Deanery Synod.

# Our Diocesan Priorities

One of the key priorities for our Diocese is for Deaneries to become viable centres of mission and ministry as we work towards the Southwark Vision - including increasing our weekly attendance and the number of worshipping communities.

To make this happen, we need to make sure all the churches in our deaneries work effectively together. That means having the best people serving on and beyond our Deanery Synods and Deanery Leadership Teams - and the next elections are in 2020.

The key priority for our Diocese is for the Southwark Vision to become embedded in the life of all our Churches.

## Southwark Vision - *Walking, Welcoming, Growing*

### A fruitful future

We share a vision for the future in which we will see:

- growing churches, new worshipping communities and new Christians
- deepening discipleship: engaged, prayerful and informed Christians
- growth in vocations to existing and new ministries
- generous giving and prayer supporting all we do
- justice and peace built up, and violence challenged, in our local and global community
- a shared commitment to the integrity of creation
- a church for all which reflects our diverse community in membership and leadership.

### What next?

If you're interested in becoming one of your Parish's representatives on Deanery Synod, talk to your current representatives, Deanery Lay Chair, Vicar or Area Dean or contact [kate.harrison@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:kate.harrison@southwark.anglican.org) ahead of the next elections in the spring of 2020 at your APCM.