



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

**Diocesan Secretary**

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To: All Deanery Synod Secretaries  
Area Deans and Deanery Lay Chairs  
President and Vice-Presidents of  
Diocesan Synod

## Elections to Diocesan Synod 2021

Dear Colleagues

I do hope you and your loved ones are keeping well in these challenging times. In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, I am writing to let you know the procedure for electing members to the Diocesan Synod in 2021. A list is enclosed showing how many are to be elected in each House of Clergy and House of Laity for each Deanery.

Elections of members of the Diocesan Synod by the houses of the Deanery Synods need to be completed by 15 July 2021. New members elected shall hold office for a term of three years beginning on 1 August 2021 and the first meeting of the new Diocesan Synod will be Saturday 20 November 2021. Candidates for the Diocesan Synod do not need to be existing members of deanery synods but must be on an electoral roll and an actual communicant member of a parish or declared by a leader of a BMO (mission initiative) to be part of its worshipping community, in the Deanery. If on more than one electoral roll then the candidate must choose which parish is appropriate. Once elected to the Diocesan Synod that person will then become an ex-officio member of the Deanery Synod and the relevant PCC.

I am aware that deaneries conduct these elections in varied ways, however, below is the method to be observed according to the Church Representation Rules. Any deviation from this may result in an appeal and the election having to be run again.

The Diocesan Synod has agreed that, for each deanery, the Lay Chair shall be the Presiding Officer for the House of Clergy and the Area Dean for the House of Laity. This will avoid complication should the Area Dean or Lay Chair wish to stand in the election.

The Diocesan Office is required to maintain the names and addresses of the qualified electors and enclosed is the current list that we hold. Please note these names were taken from the parish returns after the latest APCM for which we have records and changes may have occurred since then. You are asked to check these against your own lists and notify [Charles Hudson-Beddows](#) of any changes. Please continue to send us details of any changes whenever they occur. Only those appearing on the official list (for this purpose this will be the list that has been agreed by the Diocesan Office and the Deanery Secretary) will be entitled to receive nomination and voting papers. These must be sent out by the Presiding Officer. Please note that General Synod and Diocesan Synod members are able to vote in the elections, but *not* any co-opted members.

It is important that the membership of the Diocesan Synod tries to be representative of makeup of the church locally at parish and deanery level, so please publicise this election as widely as possible and encourage participation in the election process of people who are not necessarily on the deanery synod but are interested in church governance. An induction seminar for new members is planned for Autumn 2021.

An electronic copy of a leaflet to encourage members is included with this letter. Hard copy leaflets will be sent to your Deanery Secretary and the PCC Secretary of each parish in the Diocese.

- Woolwich Area: Synod Training and Information Event 18 September 2021 10am
- Kingston Area: Synod Training and Information Event 28 September 2021 6pm
- Croydon Area: Synod Training and Information Event 06 October 2021 6pm

Enclosed with this letter are fliers which can be distributed to those qualified to stand in the elections.

Every candidate must be nominated and seconded by a qualified elector within the house (lay or clergy) of the deanery synod they are nominated by. A notice indicating the number of seats to be filled and inviting nominations shall be dispatched to every elector by the Presiding Officer (see sample notification form enclosed). Nominations shall be delivered by post, e-mail, or in person to the Presiding Officer of the area. A period of at least 14 days should be allowed to enable nominations to be received and a period of 3 days after the closing date be allowed to receive the original copy of a nomination sent by e-mail. The nomination form shall be accompanied by a factual statement of not more than 100 words for circulation with the voting papers of the candidate's present office and any relevant experience, including professional qualifications if relevant.

It shall be the duty of the presiding officer:

- a. to scrutinise nomination papers as soon as they have been lodged and shall, without delay, inform the candidate concerned whether the nomination is valid. Where the nomination is invalid, the presiding officer shall give his reasons for so ruling and if, by the close of the nomination period, no valid nomination is received, the candidate shall be excluded from the election;
- b. to supply free of charge to a duly nominated candidate in the election one copy of the names and addresses of the qualified electors within seven days of receiving his/her written request.

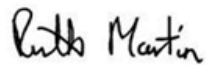
If more candidates are nominated than there are seats to be filled, the names of the candidates nominated shall be circulated on a voting paper (sample enclosed) to every qualified elector. The Diocesan Synod has ruled that the voting shall be by simple majority, and this shall apply to any election to fill a casual vacancy which occurs during the next ensuing three years.

The voting paper duly marked, shall be signed on the reverse by the elector adding his/her name and address, and returned to the Presiding Officer by the due date. A period of at least 14 days is required for this process. No vote shall be counted if not on the prescribed form. In the event of a tie, the decision between the persons for whom the equal number of votes have been cast shall be taken by lot by the Presiding Officer.

A return of the result of the election shall be sent by the Presiding Officer to me at Trinity House and a statement of the result shall be sent by the presiding officer to every candidate not later than 1 August 2021.

If you would like any further information or help please feel free contact the Assistant Secretary to Synod [charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org).

Yours sincerely



**Ruth Martin Lay Canon)  
Diocesan Secretary**

Included in this mailing is:

- List of numbers on Diocesan Synod by Deanery
- Diocesan list of Deanery members for checking and return
- Sample Notice of Election
- Sample Form of Nomination
- Sample Ballot paper
- Results sheets for clergy and laity