

## Southwark Vision 2017-2025

### *Christ-centred, outward-focused*

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

Our Vision is founded on mutual commitment from all who make up the Diocesan family to walk together in the pilgrimage of faith, supporting, encouraging and resourcing each other in our common task.

### 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's next?

If you feel called to become one of your Deanery's representatives on Diocesan Synod, talk to your current representatives, Deanery Lay Chair, Vicar or Area Dean or contact [charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org) ahead of the next elections, which must be completed by 15 July 2021 at your Deanery Synod.

## Diocesan Synod Representatives Elections 2021



## What is Diocesan Synod?

Diocesan Synod is our primary elected, representative body and brings people together across the Diocese. It holds the Diocesan Vision, drives mission, sets strategy, elects and appoints a range of positions on boards and committees and shapes priorities. It is also asked to approve the Diocesan budget presented to it by the Diocesan Board of Finance (DCT).

It may respond to questions put to it by the General Synod and is an advisory and deliberative body. It considers the important topics facing our diverse and unique Diocese and the wider Church.

It is a statutory institution which serves not only our Diocese but influences and helps to direct the National Church on matters of Church, public and Government policy. It also includes some mandatory governance items such as approval of the budget and the annual accounts.

The membership consists of three Houses: the House of Bishops; the House of Clergy; and the House of Laity.

They come together to lead the Diocese, enable mission and serve the people of God.

The number of clergy and lay members in Diocesan Synod are broadly equal.

## The agenda for 2021-2024

Diocesan Synod members will be elected in the summer of 2021 and serve a term of three years. Meetings are held in March, July and November.

Themes for the next three years will include support to parishes, clergy and lay leaders in a post-COVID world; further development of lay leadership and lay ministry and taking forward the Growing Faith initiative in relation to schools and families; a continuing focus on growth in numbers and depth of discipleship, including new Christians, Fresh Expressions of Church and new worshipping communities; an ongoing focus on safeguarding and diversity as priorities, including an anti-racism charter; and a commitment to social justice and the environment, in particular the move towards becoming an Eco Diocese.

## What skills do representatives need?

Diocesan Synods exist to serve the mission of the wider Church, to make strategic decisions, and to encourage the growth of mission and ministry in our Diocese. It is important that Diocesan Synod, as any representative body, broadly reflects the diversity of all our church members in gender, ethnic origin, age, experience and church tradition, and we welcome and encourage membership across all these groups.

We also need people to stand who have:

- **Vision:** Do you have a vision for a flourishing Church and a passion to work with others to share your Christian faith and deepen the discipleship of those around you?
- **Commitment:** Are you ready to seek God's will through prayer and theological reflection, with a heart for growth, mission and engagement across boundaries?
- **Openness:** Are you open to trying new approaches while learning from others, embracing change and the bigger picture and to sharing inspiring feedback with your deanery, PCC and wider church family?
- **Enthusiasm:** Members of Synod are encouraged to speak and challenge confidently, enabling change whilst leading and encouraging others.
- **Good communication:** Do you have a listening ear? Are you receptive and open-minded and do you have the ability to share your passion? Members of Synod are ambassadors, both amongst themselves and as a bridge between the Diocese and the parishes.

**Do you have – or could you develop – some of these qualities to serve the Diocese of Southwark? If so, please think about becoming your deanery's representative on Diocesan Synod.**

### Key dates



Deaneries to elect Synod members:	completed by 15 July 2021
Induction events for all members:	18 September 2021 (Woolwich) 28 September 2021 (Kingston) 6 October 2021 (Croydon)
First meeting of the new Synod:	20 November 2021