

Deanery Synod Lay Representatives Elections 2023

Your Deanery needs people who
can make a difference



Fresh perspectives are needed to make Deaneries
viable centres of mission and partners in the Gospel

Walking
Welcoming
Growing



The Diocese of
Southwark

What are Deaneries?

Deaneries are groups of parishes in a geographical area and form an important bridge between parishes, the Diocese and the wider church. Churches within a Deanery work together, supporting each other, sharing good news, resources, ideas and organising events and training.

What are Deanery Synods?

Deanery Synods are formal meetings of a Deanery which focus on mission and ministry, providing a channel to share information with presentations, discussions and debate of the issues that matter to local worshipping communities. The Deanery Synod comprises of both clergy and lay members who are elected from their parishes.

Occasionally Synods are required to take formal decisions, sometimes by means of a vote, and lay representatives form the electorate for the House of Laity on both the Diocesan and General Synod. Elections to Diocesan Synod next take place in summer 2024. Becoming elected to a Deanery Synod is therefore not only significant locally, but also for the wider Church.

How do Deaneries make a difference?

Many Deaneries are involved in collaborative outreach and missional activities across a wide range of areas, including Serious Youth Violence, environmental work and refugee assistance to name but a few. Parishes are able to work together collaboratively through their Deaneries to make a real difference in their local areas – communities they will understand better than anyone else.

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

What skills do representatives need?

Vision: for Christian faith and discipleship that is flourishing and growing in 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 communication: 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. We welcome and encourage a diverse membership especially as we seek to implement the *Southwark Anti-Racism Charter*.

Do you have some of these qualities to serve our Diocese of Southwark?

If so, think about becoming one of your parish’s representative on Deanery Synod. No previous experience is required. Training and support will be offered to all new members. We are especially keen to welcome younger members and people from UKME/GM heritage backgrounds.

Indrani Balachandran, Croydon South Deanery

“I would encourage you to seek election to support the important work of Deaneries as centres for mission. Being a member of Deanery Synod has given me the opportunity to meet fellow Christians, listen to some thought provoking speakers and share experiences of enhancing mission.”



Our Diocesan priorities

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

To make this happen we need to make sure that all the churches in our deaneries work effectively together. That means having the best people serving Deanery Synods and Deanery Leadership Teams, whilst representing the wealth of diversity in our Diocese.

The key priority for our Diocese is for *Southwark Vision* and the *Anti-Racism Charter* to become embedded fully in the life of all our churches and worshipping communities.

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. Alternatively, you can contact charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org ahead of the next elections in the spring of 2023 at your APCM.



**Hearts
on Fire**

The Diocese of Southwark

Loving God
Walking with Jesus
Led by the Spirit

Luke 24:13-35



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Southwark