



DIOCEAN SYNOD

Elections to the Diocesan Synod

The Chair of the House of Laity to move that:

“THIS SYNOD will take note of the Diocesan Secretary’s evaluation of membership for the 2024 triennium prior to certifying, to Deanery Secretaries, their allocation of seats formally by the end of December 2023, including the revised formula of one in 450 (min two) in order to maintain the appropriate balance of the Houses of laity and Clergy.”

1. Every three years the Diocesan Synod is required to approve (this year at the November Synod) the allocation of representatives from the deaneries to the Diocesan Synod for next year’s triennial elections. This process determines both the size of the Diocesan Synod and the distribution of places between different deaneries. Distribution of these seats is formulaic and governed by the Church Representation Rules (and variation made by Diocesan Synod itself).
2. In Southwark, Laity distribution of places is based on one seat per 500 people, cumulatively, from each deanery (with a minimum of two members) within all their parishes’ electoral roll numbers. Clergy distribution is based on one seat per six members of clergy in a deanery (with an additional one member per 10 members of clergy with Permission to Officiate).
3. The calculations for elections in 2021 were not able to use accurate data, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, which meant the closest figures which were usable, had to be taken from the 2019 electoral roll numbers. The electoral roll numbers available for these calculations are more reliable than in the last triennium.
4. A gradual decline in the number of people listed on electoral rolls has had a significant impact on the number of laity places on Diocesan Synod. By using the formula in Paragraph 2, the total number of laity places, for the 2024 elections, would be reduced to 59 laity places causing an uneven balance (even using the Bishop’s nomination power) compared to the clergy places.
5. The Diocesan Secretary and the Chairs of the Houses have agreed that maintaining balance of laity and clergy is of the highest importance and have decided that a minor alteration to the formula on which the places are based would rectify the imbalance. The revised formula of one representative for every 450 (with a minimum of two per deanery) increases the laity membership back to an approximately equal membership of Diocesan Synod. This formula was similarly adopted for the 2021 elections.

6. The table overleaf shows the numbers of electoral roll members across each deanery and the number of representatives for each. It also shows those members who are ex-officio and the Diocesan Bishop's nominations which can be used as they direct to change the balance through an increase in either House.
7. The revised formula would (at the time of writing) provide 63 Laity places and 72 Clergy places. It should be noted that not all places are always filled, within either House; and, in the event of an imbalance, Bishop Christopher has advised, as before, he would use his nominations to increase where needed. Over the current triennium the balance has been roughly equal.
8. The Chair of the House of Laity to move that:

“THIS SYNOD will take note of the Diocesan Secretary’s evaluation of membership for the 2024 triennium prior to certifying, to Deanery Secretaries, their allocation of seats formally by the end of December 2023, including the revised formula of one in 450 (min two) in order to maintain the appropriate balance of the Houses of laity and Clergy.”

Nicola Thomas
Diocesan Secretary
October 2023

Elections to Diocesan Synod in 2024

Deanery	Code	No of Reps	Electoral Roll	No of Reps	No of Reps	No of Reps	Licensed Clergy	PTO Clergy	No of Electors	No of Reps	Total Reps 2024	
		2021	2023	2024	2024	2024	2021	2023	2023	2023		2024
Croydon North	CC1	2	804	2	2	1/450 (min 2)	2	13	7	14	2	4
Croydon Addington	CC2	2	888	2	2		2	11	7	12	2	4
Croydon Central	CC3	3	1462	2	3	1/500 (min 2)	3	13	9	14	2	4
Croydon South	CC4	2	976	2	2		2	11	6	12	2	4
Sutton	CR5	4	1488	2	3		4	28	9	29	4	6
Reigate	CR3	6	2551	5	5		5	28	21	30	5	10
Tandridge	CR4	5	2149	4	4		4	20	17	21	3	7
Lambeth North	KL1	4	1070	2	2		5	34	18	35	5	7
Lambeth South	KL2	2	938	2	2		2	20	14	21	3	5
Merton	KL3	6	2450	4	5		6	32	11	33	5	9
Battersea	KW1	3	1050	2	2		3	15	8	16	2	4
Tooting	KW2	2	1126	2	2		3	17	9	18	3	5
Wandsworth	KW3	3	1589	3	3		3	21	8	22	3	6
Richmond & Barnes	KW4	3	1260	2	2		3	22	14	23	3	5
Kingston	KW5	4	1808	3	4		4	26	14	27	4	7
Charlton	WL1	2	810	2	2		4	21	10	22	3	5
Eltham & Mottingham	WL2	2	359	2	2		1	9	6	10	2	4
Plumstead	WL3	2	591	2	2		2	14	7	15	2	4
East Lewisham	WL4	3	901	2	2		4	25	18	26	4	6
West Lewisham	WL5	2	596	2	2		1	9	8	10	2	4
Deptford	WL6	2	464	2	2		2	12	2	13	2	4
Bermondsey	WS1	2	358	2	2		1	8	3	9	2	4
Southwark & Newington	WS2	2	909	2	2		4	20	14	21	3	5
Camberwell	WS3	2	584	2	2		2	13	5	14	2	4
Dulwich	WS4	2	611	2	2		3	15	8	16	2	4
Totals		72	27792	59	63		75	457	253	482	72	131

	2018	2021	2024	2024
			1/500 (min 2)	1/450 (min 2)
Bishops	4	4	4	4
Electeds Laity	73	72	59	63
Electeds Clergy	75	78	72	72
Archdeacons & Dean	7	7	7	7
Bishop's Nominees (Clergy)	2	5		
Bishop's Nominees (Laity)	8	5		
General Synod Clergy	7	7	7	7
General Synod Laity	7	7	7	7
Chancellor	1	1	1	1
DAC Chairman	1	1	1	1
DBF Chairman	1	1	1	1
Total Laity	88	87	69	73
Total Clergy	88	97	86	86
Total Bishops	4	4	4	4
Maximum Membership	180	188	159*	163*

*excluding Bishop's Nominees