



To: **Members of the Diocesan Synod**

28 November 2024

Nomination to the Diocesan Council of Trustees¹ (DCT)

Dear colleagues,

Following the first round of elections, Diocesan Synod is asked to nominate and elect members to the Diocesan Council of Trustees (the umbrella body incorporating the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), Bishop's Council, Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee) for the next three years i.e., to November 2027.

The places for this casual vacancy are:

- seven lay persons being members of the House of Laity, elected by the House of Laity, of whom at least two should be from Croydon Episcopal Area three from the Kingston Episcopal Area with two free Area places.

Important Dates

Nominations Open	Thursday 28 November (3 weeks)
Nominations Close	Thursday 19 December at 12 noon
Online Voting Opens	Friday 20 December
Online Voting Closes	Friday 3 January 2025 at 12 noon
Inaugural DCT Meeting (Residential)	Results will be announced in the New Year Monday 17 February - Tuesday 18 February 2025

Electors can nominate and vote for candidates from across the whole Diocese, but the count for the DCT election will be conducted per Episcopal Area so that the membership rules for the DCT are followed. If there are insufficient numbers of candidates, the DCT will consider how to fill the remaining places when it meets.

I enclose a nomination form which should be completed and returned by **12 noon 19 December 2024** to: Charles Hudson-Beddows electronically to governance@southwark.anglican.org or by post to Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London, SE1 1HW.

Voting will take place solely online, with the laity of Diocesan Synod as the electorate, using electronic Single Transferable Vote. Please fill in your election statement on the nomination form, in no more than 200 words, which will be included on the voting portal. Information on

¹ the umbrella body incorporating the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), Bishop's Council, Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

how to vote through the online system will be sent out to Synod members when the voting period opens. You will receive an acknowledgment when we receive a completed nomination form, if you do not receive this acknowledgement please get in touch.

Successful candidates will be asked to formally confirm support for the Diocesan governance structure, the Diocesan leadership values (Lead Enable Serve), and the Southwark Vision 2024-2035 and its Objectives. There will be handbook of governance available for DCT members.

Besides the direct nominations and elections from the House of Clergy and the House of Laity, there are also six places on the DCT for lay individuals with specific relevant expertise and these names are submitted for formal election by the Diocesan Synod. These normally include chairs of sub-committees, such as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee. These nominated and formally elected positions will have taken place before the synodical elections in order to preserve continuity of governance into the next triennium.

The Chairs of both houses of Diocesan Synod and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the DBF are ex-officio members of DCT. The Bishop also has the power to nominate up to four additional members as Trustees, two clergy and two lay.

Overleaf is an introduction to the Diocesan Council of Trustees which I hope will be useful. If you would like further information about nominating someone, or putting yourself forward, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Assistant Secretary to Synod and DCT, Charles Hudson-Beddoes - governance@southwark.anglican.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Thomas', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicola Thomas
Diocesan Secretary

Introduction to the Diocesan Council of Trustees

In Southwark Diocese, the Bishop's Council, the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee meet together under the umbrella term Diocesan Council of Trustees (DCT).

Two thirds of the Diocesan Council of Trustee members are elected by the Diocesan Synod, and of those, three quarters (or half the total membership) must be on Synod. Diocesan Synod is thus the primary body from which representative elections are made.

The members of the Diocesan Council of Trustees are all members simultaneously of its four bodies. They are therefore all Members, Directors and Trustees. Personal details will be recorded at Companies House and with the Charity Commission and Trustee/Directors will be required to complete various Declarations from time to time.

The role of a member of the Diocesan Council of Trustees is to represent its parishes, deaneries and communities and be accountable in law for the oversight of the work of the Diocese (see 'The Essential Trustee' available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know>),

Members of the DCT Trustees- and committee members- work for the good of the Diocese as a whole and not any particular constituency. As with all Trustee bodies, strategic policy development, direction and review is vital.

The Handbook of Governance contains key policies including national guidance for trustees of large charities, Code of Conduct, and Business Ethics etc.

Expectations in preparing, attending, and feeding back from meetings

In order to make the best use of the considerable talents and time available, our expectations are that Trustees and members of Committees will, as representatives of the Diocese:

1. Read meeting papers to ensure that members come to meetings fully prepared
2. Attend regularly or send apologies in advance (so apologies are accepted and noted)
3. Maintain confidentiality - material discussed by governance may be sensitive
4. Respect that members of governance bodies agree to be bound by decisions of the whole body even if they were not the ones which they supported
5. Be willing to ask questions and challenge; some members of governance bodies will have expertise in a particular area but many will not. It is the role of those who do not have expertise to help those who do, explain their thoughts in a way that our deaneries and parishes would understand
6. Attend training. It is good practice for Chairs of governance bodies to check that members have undertaken some training every year. This might be Diocesan training. It might be training experienced elsewhere which allows applied learning e.g. as a school governor
7. Participate: Members are elected or nominated to governance bodies for a reason; they have something to contribute. Equally, members should also consider whether they are speaking too much and denying others a chance to contribute
8. Feedback. Members of governance bodies are there by election or nomination and will, subject to anything especially sensitive or confidential, be expected to ensure feedback to their deanery in particular. Members of the Diocesan Council of Trustees, elected by and from Diocesan Synod, will be ex-officio a member of their deanery synod. Members should expect to be invited (and go) to deanery synod - and should proactively seek invitation. They may ask the Diocesan Secretary and the Diocesan Director of Communications for guidance on communicating with deaneries.

Summary

The Diocese is committed to best practice in governance and to ensuring the most effective use of talents and time so that it is fit for purpose. We hope you will enjoy playing your part in helping the Diocese to thrive through becoming a member of one of its Governance bodies. Thank you.