# SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN SYNOD
# 13th DECEMBER 2025.
# ITEM 29/25 - DEANERY SYNOD ELECTION NUMBERS AMENDMENT

1. This Amendment seeks to address an obvious discrepancy in the allocation of lay places on Deanery Synods for parishes with more than 125 members on their Electoral Rolls (ER).
2. In the bands 26 – 75 and 76 – 125, an extra place on Deanery Synod is allocated per 50 extra people on the ER. After that, that band is widened to 75 and then to 100 and then to 200.
3. This diminishes the contribution that larger churches can make to Deanery Synods.
4. No justification is given for this situation other than the difficulty posed by the discrepancy in size of our different deaneries in Southwark – some as small as 7 parishes, others as large as 30. There has been no change in the allocation since, I believe, 2007.
5. The other constraint is in Rule 21 of the Church Representation Rules 2025 which states that no Deanery Synod should exceed 150 in total (with some exceptions). But the chart in para 6 of the main Report shows that all Deaneries are expected to be well below the maximum of 150.
6. I understand that this Amendment could affect 20 churches and, if passed, result in approx. 34 additional places on Deanery Synods across the Diocese – so the 150 maximum would not be reached in any Deanery.
7. Given that we together seek to value all our parishes equally, and value all people equally, please support this Amendment, remove the anomalies of representation for churches with more than 125 members on their Electoral Rolls and approve a consistent, just and fair allocation of places on Deanery Synods of 1 representative place on Deanery Synod per 50 members on the Electoral Roll above 26.
8. This is about fairness, equity and transparency in our electoral processes and valuing all people and all our parishes with more equal representation.

Proposed by Ruth Inwood, REIGATE Deanery

TEXT of AMENDMENT

That the bands and numbers in Table A are replaced as follows:

0 – 25 1 place (no change)
26 – 75 2 places (no change)
76 – 125 3 places (no change)
126 – 175 4 places
176 – 225 5 places
226 – 275 6 places
276 – 325 7 places
326 – 375 8 places
376 – 425 9 places
426 – 475 10 places
476 – 525 11 places
526 – 575 12 places
576 – 625 13 places
Above 626 14 places