The Diocese of Southwark

DS(26)33

DIOCEAN SYNOD

Elections to the Diocesan Synod

The Chair of the House of Laity to move that:

"THIS SYNOD takes note of the Diocesan Secretary's evaluation of membership for the 2027 triennium prior to certifying, to Deanery Secretaries, their allocation of seats formally by the end of December 2026, including the maintained formula of one in 450 (min two) for laity and one in six (min two) for clergy 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 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 (with minor variations made by Diocesan Synod itself).

2. In Southwark, laity distribution of places is currently based on one seat per 450 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 eligible clergy in a deanery (with eligible clergy being all licensed clergy plus an additional one member per 10 members of clergy with Permission to Officiate).

3. 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. Historically, we used a formula of one seat per 500 people. However, using this formula meant that the total number of laity places for the 2024 elections would have been so reduced as to cause an uneven balance (even using the Bishop's nomination power) compared to the clergy places.

4. The Diocesan Secretary and the Chairs of the Houses therefore agreed (and as in line with the Church Representation Rules) that maintaining balance of laity and clergy is of the highest importance and decided in 2024 to a minor alteration to the formula on which the places are based in order to rectify the imbalance. The revised formula for 2024 of one

representative for every 450 (with a minimum of two per deanery) increased the laity membership back to an approximately equal membership of Diocesan Synod.

5. It is proposed to continue with this reduced formula for this coming triennium, in order to maintain the balance of laity to clergy places as close as possible to each other, in the same way as last year and as required by the Church Representation Rules (CRR 37(5)(b)).

6. The table overleaf shows the cumulative 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. It will be noted that there are some deaneries who have less than 900 members on their cumulative electoral rolls. However, these deaneries are still entitled to 2 members as this is the minimum allowable representation for each deanery on Diocesan Synod as per the Church Representation Rules (CRR 37(2)(b))

8. The revised formula would (at the time of writing) provide 76 Laity places and 84 Clergy places. (This compares with the theoretical totals for the 2024-27 triennium of 87 laity and 94 clergy). It should be noted that not all places are always filled, within either House; and, in the event of an imbalance, the Diocesan Bishop can use their nominations to increase any representation if needed.

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Nicola Thomas
Diocesan Secretary
October 2026

Elections to Diocesan Synod in 2027

Deanery	Code	No of Reps 2024 1/450 (min 2)	Electoral Roll 2026	No of Reps 2026 1/450 (min 2)	No of Reps 2024	Licensed Clergy 2026	PTO Clergy 2026	No of Electors 2026	No of Reps 2027 1/6 (min 2)	Total Reps 2026
Croydon North	CC1	2	929	2	2	15	5	16	2	4
Croydon Addington	CC2	2	897	2	2	9	8	10	2	4
Croydon Central	CC3	3	1159	2	3	13	7	14	2	4
Croydon South	CC4	2	858	2	2	7	6	8	2	4
Sutton	CR5	3	1504	3	4	23	11	24	4	7
Reigate	CR3	5	2459	5	5	25	13	26	4	9
Tandridge	CR4	4	1953	4	4	25	7	26	4	8
Lambeth North	KL1	2	2127	4	5	29	8	30	5	9
Lambeth South	KL2	2	1155	2	2	21	7	22	3	5
Merton	KL3	5	2577	5	6	28	7	29	4	9
Battersea	KW1	2	1102	2	3	12	3	13	2	4
Tooting	KW2	2	1071	2	3	16	8	17	2	4
Wandsworth	KW3	3	1697	3	3	20	5	21	3	6
Richmond & Barnes	KW4	2	1732	3	3	16	10	17	2	5
Kingston	KW5	4	2012	4	4	25	12	26	4	8
Charlton	WL1	2	1347	2	4	18	8	19	3	5
Eltham & Mottingham	WL2	2	546	2	1	9	4	10	2	4
Plumstead	WL3	2	1024	2	2	14	7	15	2	4
East Lewisham	WL4	2	1389	3	4	18	12	19	3	6
West Lewisham	WL5	2	626	2	1	9	4	10	2	4
Deptford	WL6	2	609	2	2	13	0	13	2	4
Bermondsey	WS1	2	435	2	1	11	3	12	2	4
Southwark & Newington	WS2	2	1339	2	4	24	9	25	4	6
Camberwell	WS3	2	953	2	2	13	4	14	2	4
Dulwich	WS4	2	715	2	3	15	5	16	2	4
Totals		63	32215	66	75	428	173	452	69	135

	2021	2024	2027 1/500 (min 2) 1/6 (min 2)	2027 1/450 (min 2) 1/6 (min 2)
Bishops	4	4	4	4
Elected Laity	72	63	63	66
Elected Clergy	78	72	69	69
Archdeacons & Dean	7	7	7	7
Bishop's Nominees (Clergy)	5	5		
Bishop's Nominees (Laity)	5	5		
General Synod Clergy	7	7	8	8
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	87	78	73	76
Total Clergy	97	91	84	84
Total Bishops	4	4	4	4
Maximum Membership	188	173	161*	164*

**excluding Bishop's Nominees*