



DIOCESE of  
**WINCHESTER**

# LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR DIOCESE?

STAND FOR ELECTION TO DIOCESAN SYNOD





Dear friends,

### **Can you help us be our best?**

This is the year in which we elect a new Diocesan Synod - and I invite every church member in our Diocese to consider standing. I'm particularly keen for Christians from under-represented parts of the Church to put themselves forward. Could that be you, or someone you know?

The Diocesan Synod is the governing body of the Church of England in the Diocese of Winchester. Along with its bishops, its membership is drawn from both lay and ordained members of the Church. It has a vital role to play as we look to the future, both in responding to the challenges that we face, and in helping us to be the very best that we can be – a Church that through our churches, schools, and chaplaincies shows forth the love of Christ in word and in deed to this world that our God loves so much.

So do please consider carefully whether you could play your part in helping us be such a church, through standing yourself for Diocesan Synod.

With my very best wishes, in Christ,

**Philip Mounstephen**  
***Bishop of Winchester***





# What Does Diocesan Synod Do?

The Bishop has a duty to consult the Diocesan Synod on matters of general importance and concern to the diocese and, in turn, the Diocesan Synod provides a connection to Deanery Synods and PCCs.

Members of Diocesan Synod gather three times a year – usually on a weekday evening between 6pm and 9pm – to discuss issues facing the Church and to share experience from right across the diocese.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The members of the Diocesan Synod are there to work in collaboration with each other and those in the Diocesan office to forward the mission of the Church. This involves seeking to:

- Live and grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Be a point of contact both ways between the diocese, the deanery and its parishes, participating fully in the life of all three
- Work to grow cultures of generosity and genuine stewardship within the Church which honour and develop the gifts and ministry resources of all
- Inform themselves about the work and enterprise of the various Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils
- Support the mission of the Church by prayer and personal example and seek to promote honest and harmonious working relationships throughout the diocese and the Church of England
- Inform themselves of issues under discussion at diocesan and national levels and try to ensure that the achievements of the Church at all levels are widely shared and understood
- Take an interest in relationships which link what is going on locally into the diocese and the world church



## Am I Eligible?

You do not need to be a member of your Deanery Synod to join Diocesan Synod. Parishioners who would like to stand for election must be over 16 years old, and registered on the electoral roll of a parish in the deanery.

All benefice licensed clergy and chaplains of Deanery Synods are eligible to stand for Diocesan Synod.

We're seeking people who:

- Have a passion for the mission and ministry of the Church
- Will prayerfully consider the issues put to Synod
- Can listen to others attentively as well as being willing to speak
- Are able to make decisions for the good of the diocese as a whole
- Will communicate the work of Deanery Synods and PCCs to Diocesan Synod



## How Do I Apply?

If you would like to be nominated for election to represent your deanery then you will need to complete a nomination form, which will be available from Deanery Synod members or deanery leadership teams from June.

Once you have completed your nomination form it must be proposed and seconded by two members of Deanery Synod. For parishioners (laity) your proposer and seconder will be from the House of Laity. For clerical positions they will be from the House of Clergy.

If you are unsure who the lay members of your Deanery Synod are, then your vicar or PCC secretary will be able to put you in touch with them.



## What Happens Next?

Members of each Deanery Synod vote to elect those members for Diocesan Synod who have been nominated from within their deanery. In other words, each deanery is responsible for choosing the parishioners and clergy from their area of the diocese who will sit on Diocesan Synod.

Further information, including notice of election and nomination papers will be issued at the start of June. Nominations must be received no later than 5pm on 21 June 2024. For further information please contact Cathy Laird, [cathy.laird@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:cathy.laird@winchester.anglican.org).