

Diocesan Synod Elections for the 1 August 2024 – 31 July 2027 Term

FAQs

“What is Diocesan Synod?”

Representatives of the clergy and laity of the diocese who meet to consider matters affecting the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to the diocese; to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest, including matters referred by General Synod or the deaneries of the diocese; and to advise the Bishop of Leeds on any matter on which he consults the Synod.

“Who are the members of Diocesan Synod?”

There are three Houses: House of Bishops, House of Clergy and House of Laity. Some members are automatically members because of their role eg Bishops and Archdeacons, others are elected.

“What’s involved if I’m a member?”

Synod meets usually three times a year to debate and/ vote on matters affecting or of concern to the Diocese.

You will be expected to attend an induction meeting in September 2024 (to be held via Zoom) and then each Synod (which may be held via Zoom or in person at various locations throughout the diocese), take part in the debates bringing your knowledge and expertise of both your parish, deanery and personal lived experience and faith but also recognising that the Synodical decisions affect the whole diocese and are part of the broader diocesan Strategy agreed by the Synod.

You will be required to read the Agenda and papers circulated for each Synod meeting before the Synod, so you are fully informed and ready to contribute to the decision making and discussions.

As a member of the Diocesan Synod you will also be a company member of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance company, a charitable company limited by guarantee. This is the legal body which manages the finances of the diocese for the Diocesan Synod. You will be occasionally required to attend company members’ meetings of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance. These are usually held on the same day as Diocesan Synod meetings.

The Diocesan Synod members are also the electorate for various diocesan boards and committees. For some boards and committees, the potential membership is also the Diocesan Synod members. So you will have the opportunity to be a candidate for election to these bodies.

“When are elections held?”

Every three years for a three year term. Elections this year start 18 April 2024 and end on w/b 24 June 2024.

“Who can be a candidate?”

- i) Clergy: Any clerk in holy orders who is a member of a Deanery Synod in the diocese.
- ii) Laity: Any lay person who is an actual communicant of sixteen years or upwards and whose name is entered on the roll of any parish in the deanery.

“What do I need to do to become a candidate/be elected?”

Nomination by two deanery synod members – 2 clergy from the candidate’s deanery for the clergy election and 2 laity from the candidate’s deanery for the lay election.

If there are more nominations than Diocesan Synod places allocated to a deanery there will need to be a ballot.

“How do I submit a candidate’s address?”

A form is attached/enclosed which candidates may use for submitting their 100 words statements. Candidates do not have to use this form but may do so if they wish.

Just to confirm, the Church Representation Rules 2022 Rule 40 (4) (b) provides that if a candidate wishes they may set out *“in no more than 100 words a factual statement for circulation with the voting papers of his or her professional qualifications, present office and relevant past experience.”*

Candidates can submit their 100 words statement to the Presiding Officer in their election up to the date for close of nominations. Please note the

“Where can I get more information?”

Email or speak to Heather Burge, Governance and Elections Lead: elections@leeds.anglican.org or 0113 353 0228.