

Elections to Diocesan Synod 2015

1. Diocesan Synod 2015

Elections to the Diocesan Synod take place every three years and the next election will take place in 2015. Members elected to the Diocesan Synod hold office for a term of three years, beginning with 1st August 2015.

2. Qualification for election

House of Clergy

- Provided that no clerk in Holy Orders shall stand for election by more than one deanery synod, any clerk in Holy Orders who is a member of the deanery synod shall be qualified to be so elected by the house of clergy of a deanery synod.
- The electors shall be those whose names and addresses are recorded in the register of electors but not those co-opted to the deanery synod.

House of 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 shall be qualified to be elected by the house of laity of a deanery synod.
- The electors shall be those whose names and addresses are recorded in the register of lay electors but not those co-opted to the deanery synod.

3. The Church Representation Rules

Membership of the Diocesan Synod is for a term of three years.

Church Representation Rule 31 (6) states that:

The diocesan synod shall, not later than the 31st December in the year preceding any such election, determine the number of members to be so elected by the houses of the several deanery synods in the diocese, and the numbers shall-

- (a) In the case of elections by the houses of clergy, be related to the numbers of members of those houses in the respective deanery synods;*
- (b) In the case of elections by the houses of laity, be related to the total numbers of names on the rolls of the parishes in the respective deaneries as certified....under rule 4:*
Provided that at least two members shall be elected by each house of every deanery synod.

Church Representation Rule 31 (8) states that:

The diocesan synod shall so exercise their powers under this rule as to secure that the number of members of the synod is not less than 100 and not more than 270 and that the numbers of the houses of clergy and laity are approximately equal.

4. Election to the Houses

Key Dates

- 31 December 2014:** The Diocesan Secretary will certify to the secretary of every deanery synod the numbers to be elected.
- 15 July 2015:** The election by the houses of the deanery synods shall be completed by the **15th July 2015** and the period and dates of the election shall be fixed by the bishop and communicated to the secretaries of the deanery synods.

a. Election to the House of Clergy

The number of members to be elected from every deanery synod shall be one member for every three and part of three members of the house of clergy of the deanery synod, provided that at least two members shall be elected by the house of clergy of every deanery synod.

b. Election to the House of Laity

The number of members to be elected from every deanery synod shall be one member for every two hundred and fifty and part of two hundred and fifty of the total number of names on the rolls of the parishes and districts in the deanery provided that at least two members shall be elected by the house of laity of every deanery synod.

5. Determination by the Synod

The Archdeacon of Northumberland to propose that:

The numbers for election by deaneries of clergy and laity to the diocesan synod be calculated in accordance with paragraph 4(a) and 4(b) above and for the Diocesan Secretary to certify to the secretary of every deanery synod, by not later than 31 December 2014, the numbers to be elected.

Shane Waddle
Diocesan Secretary
28 November 2014