

ELECTIONS TO THE GENERAL SYNOD 2021

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE FOR ELECTIONS

The present General Synod is likely to be dissolved in accordance with Royal Writs on or very shortly before or after Tuesday 13 July 2021, after the July group of sessions. The following provisional timetable is provided on that basis:-

The 'nomination period' must be not less than 28 days.

The 'voting period' must be not less than 21 days.

1	Notification to electors of the election timetable to be followed in the diocese and issue of invitations to nominate	Not later than Friday 30 July
2	Notification of the validity of any nomination	As soon as any nomination is received
3	Closing date for nominations	Friday 3 September
4	Issue of voting invitations	Friday 17 September
5	Closing date for return of votes	Friday 8 October
6	Day of the count	Monday 11, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13, or Thursday 14 October.
7	Names and addresses of those elected and result sheet to be sent to the diocesan bishop, the Clerk to the Synod and every candidate.	Not later than the fourth working day after the date of the declaration of the result.

QUALIFICATION FOR ELECTION (Extract from GS Misc 1247)

PROCTORIAL CANDIDATES (CLERGY)

26. To be eligible to stand in a diocese or electoral area, a candidate must have been ordained priest or deacon, *must not be in episcopal orders* and must be in one of the following categories:

- 1) a person who is qualified as an elector in the diocese or electoral area;
- 2) a person who would have been a qualified elector in the diocese or electoral area if he or she had been a member of a deanery synod in that diocese or area (or, in the diocese in Europe, a member of a deanery or archdeaconry synod or, in the diocese of Sodor and Man, a member of the diocesan synod), i.e. a priest or deacon holding written permission from the bishop to officiate within the diocese³³;
- 3) a person qualified to vote in the universities and TEIs constituency who:
 - a) would be qualified as a diocesan elector but for the fact that he or she is qualified to vote in that constituency,
 - b) is beneficed in, or licensed to, a parish in the diocese or area or is licensed to serve as a vicar in a team ministry in a benefice in the diocese or area, and
 - c) has elected under Canon H3 paragraph 5A to stand in the diocese or electoral area rather than in the universities and TEIs constituency (see paragraph 29).

27. Canon H 2 paragraph 5 disqualifies from nomination for election any person who holds any paid office or employment, appointment to which is or may be made or confirmed by the General Synod, the Convocations, the Archbishops' Council, the Church Commissioners, the Church of England Pensions Board or the Corporation of the Church House. (This disqualification does not apply to a Church Commissioner who is paid for his or her services as a Commissioner.)

28. It should be noted that only one archdeacon can be elected for any diocese or, if the diocese is divided into electoral areas, for any such electoral area³⁴.

29. Where paragraph 26(3) above applies, an elector in the universities and TEIs constituency who has opted to stand for election as a diocesan proctor should inform the presiding officers for both the diocesan election and the election to the universities and TEIs constituency (the Joint Provincial Registrar). He or she will then be entitled to seek nomination but may not propose or second another candidate, or vote, in the diocesan election. If the diocese is divided into electoral areas, a university or TEI elector must choose for which electoral area he or she is to be nominated. Such a candidate will still have a vote in the election to the universities and TEIs constituency although he or she will no longer be qualified to stand as a candidate in that election.

³³ Canon H2 paragraph 5. 15

³⁴ Canon H 2 paragraph (1)(e) as it applies in the Province of Canterbury; Canon H2 paragraph 1(c) as it applies in the Province of York

LAY CANDIDATES

30. A candidate must be a lay person who satisfies each of the following conditions³⁵ (but see also paragraph 31):

- 1) the person must have received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or a Church in communion with it at least three times in the twelve months before the date of the dissolution of the Synod (see paragraph 3);
- 2) the person must either be confirmed (or ready and desirous of being confirmed) or come within paragraph 1(b) of Canon B 15A (i.e. be a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity);
- 3) the person must be aged at least 18 on the date of the dissolution of the Synod.

31. In addition to satisfying each of the conditions listed in paragraph 30, a candidate must satisfy one of the following conditions³⁶:

- 1) the person's name must be on:
 - a) the roll of a parish in the diocese,
 - b) in the diocese of London, the roll of a guild church³⁷,
 - c) in the diocese in Europe, the roll of a chaplaincy³⁸, or
 - d) in the case of a cathedral church of the diocese (if not a parish church), the community roll;
- 2) the person must:
 - a) if in the diocese of London, be declared by the Dean of Westminster to be a habitual worshipper at Westminster Abbey, or
 - b) if in the diocese of Oxford, be declared by the relevant dean to be a habitual worshipper at St George's Chapel, Windsor or Christ Church, Oxford;
 - c) the person must be declared by the leader of a mission initiative in the diocese to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative.

32. A cleric who has executed a deed of relinquishment from Holy Orders under the Clerical Disabilities Act 1870, which has been enrolled and recorded in accordance with that Act, is deemed not to be a clerk in Holy Orders and may stand for election in the lay constituency³⁹.

33. The time and date at which candidates must be qualified is normally 6.00 a.m. on the date of dissolution of the Synod but, exceptionally, the Deans of Westminster, St George's Chapel, Windsor and Christ Church, Oxford, and the leader of a mission initiative, may declare a person to be a habitual worshipper at any time during the month before or the month. 17 after the dissolution (i.e. during the period Monday 15 June to Wednesday 13 August 2020 inclusive, if the dissolution is on Tuesday 14 July 2020)⁴⁰.

34. As in the case of proctorial elections, attention is drawn to the provision which disqualifies any lay person who holds a paid office or employment of the kind referred to in paragraph 27 from being nominated for election to the General Synod⁴¹. There is the same exception for certain Church Commissioners.

35. A person who is qualified in one of the ways described in paragraphs 30 and 31 and whose name is also on the roll of a parish in another diocese or that of a guild church in the diocese of London must choose one of those places (and therefore one of the dioceses) in order to qualify as a candidate⁴².

36. There is also a choice of area in which to stand as a candidate where a diocese is divided into electoral areas, as the candidate need not be on the roll of a parish in his or her chosen area or, if on the community roll at the cathedral, need not choose the area in which the cathedral is situated. However, in those circumstances, the candidate must either be on the roll of a parish in another area in the diocese or be on the community roll at a cathedral in the diocese. In a general election, or when casual vacancies are being filled in more than one electoral area, no one may stand in two or more electoral areas simultaneously⁴³.

³⁵ CRR Rule 50

³⁶ CRR Rule 50

³⁷ CRR Rule 83(7) and (8)

³⁸ CRR Rule 82(1)(b)

³⁹ CRR Rule 83(10)

⁴⁰ CRR Rule 50(6) and (7).

⁴¹ CRR Rule 62(1).

⁴² CRR Rule 50(8).

⁴³ CRR Rule 50(11).