

# Keen to make a difference?

Stand for election to Diocesan Synod



**DIOCESE of OXFORD**

*Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes*

## The best Church we can be

The Diocesan Synod is the governing body of the Church of England in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. Alongside the bishops, its membership is drawn from parishioners and clergy.

This year is an election year for Diocesan Synod and every parishioner in the Diocese of Oxford is invited to consider standing. We're particularly keen for Christians from under-represented parts of the Church to put themselves forward. Could that be you, or someone you know?

As we emerge from COVID-19, this is a real opportunity to help the diocese respond to the challenges that face us all. The start of a new triennium (new members are elected every three years) aligns with the full implementation of the Common Vision process as we journey towards a more Christ-like Church... the best Church we can be for this generation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Oxford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

### **Bishop Steven**

President of Diocesan Synod

## What will it involve?

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 Saturday – to discuss issues facing the Church and to share experience from right across the diocese. Members can also put themselves forward for boards and committees, such as the Bishop's Council.

## Am I eligible?

You do not need to be a member of your Deanery 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 clerical members 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, available from a Deanery Synod member in your parish (eligible clergy will automatically receive a nomination form).

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 elected, while you are a member of Diocesan Synod, you will also be an ex officio member of your Deanery Synod and PCC.

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.

Further information about eligibility criteria, the nominations process and where to obtain a nomination form can be found online at

**[oxford.anglican.org/diocesan-synod](http://oxford.anglican.org/diocesan-synod)**

## 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.

## Sample timetable

Dates will vary by deanery but elections must be complete by 15 July.

### May

notice of election and nomination papers sent to electors

### June

last date for receipt of nomination papers  
voting papers sent to electors

### July

close of voting  
count and declaration of result

### 1 August

Term of office begins

### 27 September

Induction and Eucharist, Oxford  
(all Diocesan Synod members)

## Bishop's Council

Members of the new Diocesan Synod will find themselves right at the heart of discussions about the mission and ministry of the Church. Members also elect from among themselves those who will form Bishop's Council. This is the standing committee of the Diocesan Synod.

Bishop's Council is a forum for informed discussion and consideration of detailed advice, advising the Bishop and responsible for financial decisions. Bishop's Council is also the Board of Directors for the Diocesan Board of Finance.

## Encouraging diversity

We want to see a Diocesan Synod that is truly representative of the diversity of our people and parishes. So, if you're keen to make a difference and interested in standing for election, then why not visit the website to find out more?

[oxford.anglican.org/diocesan-synod](http://oxford.anglican.org/diocesan-synod)

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