



ELECTIONS TO DIOCESAN BOARDS, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES, 2024-2027

May I please encourage you to stand for one of the Boards, Councils and Committees, and to encourage others to do so. We need as wide a range of people as possible to take part in forming the direction of our Diocesan Life.

*Bishop Steven
Bishop of Oxford*

Introduction

There are many Boards, Councils and Committees of the Diocesan Synod which will be looking for new members in the 2024-2027 triennium. The contribution of elected members is essential in bringing experience, insight, skill and enthusiasm to our work. Through this involvement, Diocesan Synod members can contribute to the continuing development of policy and good practice.

Could you get involved and make a difference?

The work of those Boards, Councils and Committees that have representation from Diocesan Synod is described briefly here, together with information about the number of vacancies, and who may propose and second nominations in each case. The Diocesan website www.oxford.anglican.org carries more information about many of the bodies concerned. Our latest Annual Review [Annual review - Diocese of Oxford \(anglican.org\)](http://www.oxford.anglican.org) in particular sets out some of the issues currently being taken forward in each area of the diocese's work.

The details of how many vacancies there are, and which Diocesan Synod members can propose and second a nomination, are given in italics.

Elections to Diocesan Boards and Councils are governed by Diocesan Synod Standing Orders 86-88. The timetable for the first round of elections in 2024 is this:

Noon on 28th October	Deadline for Nomination Forms to be received at Church House, Oxford
30th October	Results announced where places are uncontested
4th November	Ballot papers issued for contested places
22nd November	Deadline for ballot papers to be received at Church House, Oxford
26th November	Results of ballots announced

A Nomination Form is enclosed in this pack, which can be copied. It can also be downloaded from the Diocesan website: [Diocesan Synod - Diocese of Oxford \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/diocesan-synod).

Occasionally a second (or further) round of nominations is necessary, and this will take place in December.

1. Diocesan Synod elects representatives from its membership to serve on these Boards, Councils and Committees

Bishop's Council

The Bishop's Council is responsible for advising the Diocesan Bishop, considering matters of policy, and determining how matters should be taken forward to the Diocesan Synod for further consideration. As the Standing Committee of both the Synod and the Diocesan Board of Finance, it handles a wide range of financial and strategic business, and considers issues raised by Diocesan Boards, Councils and Committees, Deaneries and the national church. Members act as Directors and Trustees of the Diocesan Board of Finance, a limited company and registered charity, and the Council is responsible for the management of finance, subject to the direction of the Synod. By virtue of this role, Members also serve as directors of Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Limited, a Company limited by Guarantee which acts as the custodian trustee for land held by a PCC/incumbent or churchwarden PCC. Bishop's Council also acts as the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, and elected members are ex-officio members of their archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee.

In addition to Ex-officio and nominated members, elected membership consists of:

- *2 clerical and 3 lay Diocesan Synod members from each of the Berkshire, Buckingham and Dorchester archdeaconries.*
- *1 clergy person and 2 lay Diocesan Synod members from the Oxford archdeaconry.*

Members are to be nominated and elected by the clerical and lay Diocesan Synod members respectively of each archdeaconry.

People with a broad range of interests, committed to the principles, priorities and values of Common Vision (being a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world) and who would like to share in the overall governance of the diocese are encouraged to stand. The membership seeks to be representative of all categories of diversity including ethnicity.

Bishop's Council: Meets typically five times a year, usually these are Wednesdays, either in the afternoon or in the evening (5-9pm including supper) and the July meeting is all day.

For more information, contact the Governance Officer, Judith Dignum, (0333 013 4579 / Judith.dignum@oxford.anglican.org)

Buildings Committee

Sets the policy for buying, repairing, maintaining and disposing of all parsonage houses, team vicarages and houses owned by the Board of Finance. Common-sense and an interest in the well-being of our clergy and their families are required.

2 clerical and 2 lay Diocesan Synod members elected from the archdeaconries of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Dorchester. 1 clerical and 1 lay Diocesan Synod member elected from the archdeaconry of Oxford. Members are to be elected by the clerical and lay Diocesan Synod members respectively of each archdeaconry.

Meets 3 times a year. Archdeaconry sub-committees also meet 3 times a year.

For more information, contact Sophie Orme: sophie.orme@oxford.anglican.org

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Works with deaf and hard-of-hearing people to meet their spiritual, social and general needs, and to give them a voice and full participation in church and society. Synod members with some financial experience or experience with the young deaf or hard of hearing are particularly welcomed.

2 members of the Diocesan Synod, either clerical or lay representatives, nominated and elected by Diocesan Synod members

Meets 3 times a year to support the work of the chaplaincy team.

For more information, see our web site: [About ODCD - THE OXFORD DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING](#)

Oxford Diocesan Council for Partnership in World Mission (PiWM)

The Council for Partnership in World Mission (PiWM) includes elected Synod members as well as appointed and co-opted members with experience in mission and the world church

A major part of PiWM's activities involve our four diocesan partnerships:

- The Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman (Anglican, South Africa)
- The Diocese of Växjö (Lutheran, Church of Sweden)
- The Diocese of Nandyal (Church of South India)
- The Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

But it's not just about diocesan partnership links. We're conscious that the Body of Christ globally is far wider – and so PiWM also is undertaking projects with and working alongside a range of missions and development agencies and Anglican Communion networks. And we're seeking to expand our work with parishes that have links and/or strong diaspora communities and organisations with a passion for mission and the world church.

Our starting point is that the worldwide Body of Christ is called to work together in mutual love – and that we are diminished if we are not connected with our brothers and sisters. We therefore encourage all members of the Diocese of Oxford to recognise, develop, use, and seek to increase opportunities to join with other Christians globally in seeking to serve Christ. We present opportunities for shared prayer, reflection and action.

And, if you're interested in being part of this activity, we'd love you to join us! PiWM is a working council. So we are particularly interested in people who are willing to contribute talents and time not only to giving guidance on our future course, but also to implementing the Council's plans.

4 members, either clergy or lay, nominated and elected by the Diocesan Synod from among its membership ensuring all four archdeaconries are represented. If an archdeaconry does not put forward any candidates, vacancies will be kept and a by-election held.

Meets 3 to 4 times a year: meetings are generally from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm: one meeting, usually in the summer, is a 24-hour residential focusing on a major theme relating to world mission.

For more information, contact Maranda St John Nicolle:

Maranda.StJohnNicolle@oxford.anglican.org

Diocesan Committee for Interfaith Relations

Interfaith matters are relevant in every part of our diocese as never before.

The aims of the group are:

- a) To support, resource and enable individuals, churches and clergy in 'Presence & Engagement' parishes.
- b) To keep members of the Diocese aware of other faith communities, and to enable and encourage constructive engagement with them.
- c) To be a forum in which Interfaith concerns, as they affect the Diocese, can be explored and recommendations made to relevant Diocesan boards.

2 persons to be appointed by the Diocesan Synod. Any Diocesan Synod member may propose or second the nomination.

Meets three or four times a year in the morning, usually in or near Oxford. For further information, contact the Archdeacon of Oxford or Claire Barratt: Claire.Barratt@oxford.anglican.org or see [Interfaith relations - Diocese of Oxford \(anglican.org\)](#)

Glebe Committee

It is the function of each Diocesan Board of Finance to hold, manage and deal with Diocesan Glebe land for the benefit of the Diocesan Stipends Fund. The Glebe Committee has been established to perform this role on its behalf. In performing these functions, the Glebe committee has to balance its 3 objectives:

- Maximise the capital value of the fund and the income it generates;
- Support the Diocese's environmental objective to achieve carbon zero in working with local rural communities
- Identify land within its portfolio or for acquisition for social housing development projects

The committee's responsibilities include:

- To oversee the management of the Glebe Portfolio (portfolio currently handled by 3 glebe managing agents)
- Appointing Managing Agents
- To generate income for the Diocesan Stipends Fund
- To draw up land management schemes for the management of Diocesan Glebe
- To review the development potential of glebe
- Responsibility for decisions on purchasing/selling glebe

1 lay or clergy diocesan synod member from Oxford, Berks, Bucks and Dorchester, nominated and elected by the Diocesan Synod members respectively from each Archdeaconry. Meets three times a year.

For more information, contact Sophie Orme: sophie.orme@oxford.anglican.org

2. Diocesan Synod elects to the following Boards people *who need not themselves be Diocesan Synod members,*

Please give some thought to people you know in deaneries and parishes who might be interested in these vacancies.

Diocesan Board of Education [Oxford Diocesan Board of Education \(odbe.org.uk\)](http://odbe.org.uk)

Diocesan Boards of Education (DBEs) fulfil an important role in education and are expected to be able to play a full and effective role in support of Church of England schools.

Our Board structure creates a sharp and effective body capable of responding to the considerable external pressures in education and one which continues to hold the oversight of the church character of our schools close to its heart.

There has been a period of significant change in education, and we are now working in a landscape which is more complex but also provides greater opportunities. The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education oversees the work of a large team of experienced officers who take responsibility for strategy and implementation of a range of key issues covering school effectiveness, buildings and premises, finance, and human resources. Board members are also expected to play a role on at least one of our committees (School Effectiveness, Development, Finance, and the Human Resources Panel, which also serves DBF).

The Board, incorporated in 2010, has responsibility for 285 church schools and academies serving approximately 60,000 pupils, working with 9 Local Authorities and 22 multi-academy trusts across the diocese. The DBE is increasingly responsible for educational standards within our schools, particularly where there is under performance, and is frequently asked to contribute to strategic decisions regarding academisation, effective school groupings or deployment of funds on school building projects, for example. The staff team provides practical help with school improvement, governance, buildings, admissions, appeals and trust issues, together with pastoral support for school leaders. As a corporate member of all diocesan academy trusts, we also share responsibility with local stakeholders for the direct running of academy schools.

The Board earns a significant level of income from trading activities which is important to allow it to continue to develop and improve.

We are seeking exceptional individuals with expertise in legal, finance, business, HR or strategic planning, with an understanding of the importance of church schools in the life of our diocese.

The new board will comprise a maximum of 22 members: - in addition to the Bishop of Oxford, there could be 1 member of the Bishop's senior staff, plus a further 1 nominated directly by the Bishop, and up to 8 people co-opted on the basis of their experience and skills in schools and our work. The Board is currently chaired by a member of the Diocesan Synod following the sad and sudden death of the Bishop of Buckingham.

The remaining 10 members will be nominated and elected by Diocesan Synod from the Archdeacons as follows:

- *Oxford Archdeaconry – 1 member of Diocesan Synod, Lay or Ordained*
- *Berkshire Archdeaconry – 3 members: 1 of whom must be a member of Diocesan Synod, 1 must be Lay and 1 must be Ordained.*
- *Buckinghamshire Archdeaconry – as for Berkshire*
- *Dorchester Archdeaconry – as for Berkshire*

Meets: Main Board meets 3 times a year, with committees sometimes meeting more often.

For more information, contact Penny Bingham: penny.bingham@oxford.anglican.org

Diocesan Board of Patronage

The Board is Patron of 17, and Joint Patron of 19, benefices in the diocese and so is responsible for finding a suitable priest to fill the vacancy for an incumbent when it arises. This is done in close cooperation with the Bishop and Parish Representatives.

3 clerical members beneficed in or licensed to any parish in the diocese, proposed, seconded and elected by the House of Clergy of the Diocesan Synod and 5 lay members, proposed, seconded and elected by the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod; in each case by single transferable vote. Members are elected to serve for 6 years.

Meets twice a year.

For more information, contact Revd Dan Heyward: dan.heyward@standrewsoxford.org