



Diocesan Synod Elections 2024 – How About You?



The Diocesan Synod is a democratically elected body which has an important role in deciding the strategic direction of the Diocese. This summer the Deaneries will hold elections to determine who will serve on Diocesan Synod for the next three years.

We know that God calls people to various ministries – is God calling you to this one?

Why should I stand for Synod?

- To represent your churches, your community, your age group
- To influence Christian mission and strategy
- To ensure good financial management
- To make a difference on issues of social injustice, poverty and the environment

If you feel that the views from your part of the Diocese, or people of your age, gender, situation or ethnic origin aren't heard or are underrepresented, we encourage you to get involved. We want our Synod to truly represent the people across our churches.

In addition, membership of your Diocesan Synod provides opportunities for networking, sharing and learning.

What does the word Synod mean?

The word 'Synod' comes from the Greek language and means 'the way together'. We very much want to embody that root meaning of the word by being a collection of different church traditions, so that together we can Make Jesus Known in the Diocese of Salisbury.

What does being a Diocesan Synod member involve?

The Salisbury Diocesan Synod is the representative, governing body of the Diocese of Salisbury. It is also the Diocesan Board of Finance. Bishops, clergy and lay people meet together to discuss issues affecting the Church and our Diocese.

Diocesan Synod usually meets three times a year for a full day on a Saturday in spring and autumn and for an evening in June (this format is occasionally altered as business dictates).

Am I eligible?

You do not have to be a Deanery Synod member, but you must be:

- Sixteen or over.
- Registered on the Church Electoral Roll of any parish in the Deanery. If you are not on the Roll then please speak to your Church Electoral Roll Officer, parish Priest or Parochial Church Council (PCC) members to arrange to join.
- A communicant member (ie you have taken communion at least three times in the last year, not necessarily in your own parish)

A clergy candidate must be a member of the Deanery Synod.

Someone already elected to the General Synod is automatically ex-officio a member of the Diocesan Synod and does not therefore need to be separately elected.

If you have a passion for the mission and ministry of the church and would like to make a positive contribution to the future of your Diocese and the Church of England, please put your name forward for election.

Also, if you know someone with the enthusiasm to make a difference in this role, please encourage them to stand for election.

What is the procedure?

You need to complete a Nomination Form which is available either by downloading it from the diocesan web site or obtaining it from a Deanery Synod member.

You need to find two members of your Deanery Synod to propose and second your nomination and to return your form to the deanery Presiding Officer by your deanery's closing date for nominations – which may be slightly different for each deanery.

If you are not sure who is a Deanery Synod member, your parish Priest or PCC Secretary will be able to tell you. They should also be able to help you access the wider network of synod members in your deanery.

Deanery Presiding Officers then arrange the ballot and Deanery Synod members vote to elect from those people nominated from within their deanery.

Elected – what next?

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

The members of the new Diocesan Synod will, from amongst themselves, elect representatives who will serve on the **Bishop's Council**.

The Bishop's Council is the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod. It is where informed discussion and consideration can take place as it seeks to advise the Bishop and make

decisions of a financial, missional or governance nature. It is also the Board of Finance Executive.

There is also a variety of **committees** and **working groups** focusing on specific areas and you may have skills and experience to offer in these.

Members are encouraged to foster good communications between the parishes, deaneries and the Diocesan Synod.

More information

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the diocesan web site at:

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whos-who/synods/diocesan-synod> or can be obtained from your Deanery Synod representatives or from: parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org or 01722 411922.

Elections Timetable

1 May – Nomination Papers available

Check with a Deanery Synod member for the exact date for return of Nomination papers and issue of Voting papers in your deanery.

24 June – Elections completed by this date.

Remaining Diocesan Synod Meetings in 2024

18 June (evening Budget)

12 October (Saturday) – first meeting of the newly elected Synod.

It's that easy...