

## Diocesan Synod Elections 2024

### Motion:

Diocesan Synod and Diocesan Board of Finance Elections 2024 – The Chair of the House of Laity to move on behalf of the Bishop’s Council:

“That this Synod,

- a) Determines that the basis of lay representation be amended to reduce the number of members that each deanery is required to elect.
- b) In order to ensure an approximately equal number of House of Laity and House of Clergy and that the total membership of the Synod and Board of Finance lies between 100 and 270 members, determines that the formula for clergy members to be elected by the Houses of Clergy of the deanery synods shall be on a proportion of 18% of the membership of those Houses.
- c) Further determines that the form of voting paper to be used by the deaneries in this election and for any election to fill a casual vacancy occurring during the next ensuing three years shall be Form 6 in Part 10 of Church Representation Rules, which is for elections to be decided by simple majority.”

### The Rules

Church Representation Rules (CRR) Part 4, Section 37 (1) states:

“A diocesan synod must, no later than 31 December in the year before an election of its members, determine for each house of each deanery synod in the diocese the number of members to be elected by that house.”

Moreover the Rules state that –

- Numbers elected to the House of Clergy must relate to the number of members of the houses of clergy of the deanery synods and must be at least two.
- Numbers elected to the House of Laity must relate to the numbers on the church electoral rolls of each deanery and must be at least two.
- The total membership of the Diocesan Synod must lie between 100 and 270.
- The membership of the Houses of Clergy and Laity must be approximately equal.

### Church Electoral Rolls 2023

The lay representation is calculated on the church electoral roll figure for all parishes for 2023. This is based on a 70%+ response rate at time of writing. Where a 2023 figure has not yet been provided, the 2022 figure has been used.

### Clergy Membership of Deanery Synods

The basis for calculation is the membership as set out in Church Representation Rules Part 3, Section 15:

- (1) The members of the house of clergy of a deanery synod are every clerk in Holy Orders –
  - (a) who is beneficed in or licensed to a parish in the deanery,

- (b) who is licensed under section 2 of the Extra-Parochial Ministry Measure 1967 in respect of an institution in the deanery,
  - (c) who is a clerical member of the General Synod or a diocesan synod and is resident in the deanery,
  - (d) who is resident in the deanery and licensed by the bishop to work throughout the diocese or in more than one deanery and is not subject to a direction under [Rule 17](#) to be a member of another deanery synod,
  - (e) who is not resident in the deanery but is subject to a direction under [Rule 17](#) to be a member of the deanery synod,
  - (f) who holds permission to officiate, is resident in the deanery or has habitually attended public worship in the deanery during the preceding six months, and is elected or chosen as mentioned in paragraph (2),
  - (g) who is co-opted under [Rule 18](#), or
  - (h) who is made a member by virtue of a scheme under [Rule 23](#) or [24](#) (cathedrals, royal peculiars, mission initiatives).
- (2) One clerk who is eligible for membership under paragraph (1)(f) is to be elected or chosen –
- (a) for every ten clerks of that description, and
  - (b) where the number of such clerks is not divisible by ten without fraction or remainder, for the fraction or remainder.

### Basis for representation

Bishop’s Council has agreed to update the basis for representation, recognising that Church Electoral Roll has reduced by a quarter since 2003 (40,000 down to just under 30,000) and the reality of attracting candidates from the shrinking pool of volunteers who meet the CRR criteria.

The existing Diocesan Synod has a membership of just over 200 persons/places, whereas the adjusted basis for representation for the 2024 elections will result in a Diocesan Synod of 148 members; the permitted window being between 100 – 270 members.

The formula as follows:

Number on church electoral rolls of the deanery	Number of lay representatives to be elected by that deanery
<1001	2
1001 – 2000	3
2001 – 3000	4
>3001	5

The table below sets out the proposed representation for the Diocesan Synod elections in 2024 using the amended formula together with the 2021 numbers (based on the current formula) for comparison.

DEANERY	Basis for calculation		Proposed new Representation 2024	
	Clergy	Electoral Roll 2023	Clergy at 18%	Laity by formula
Alderbury	9	1,004	2	3
Blackmore Vale	9	1,377	2	3
Bradford	15	1,762	3	3
Calne	7	1,023	2	3
Chalke	10	1,753	2	3
Devizes	12	1,442	2	3
Dorchester	14	1,506	3	3
Heytesbury	13	1,486	2	3
Lyme Bay	15	1,616	3	3
Marlborough	6	1,024	2	3
Milton & Blandford	11	1,128	2	3
Pewsey	6	1,098	2	3
Poole & North Bournemouth	37	3,301	7	5
Purbeck	11	1,387	2	3
Salisbury	25	1,687	4	3
Sherborne	14	1,701	3	3
Stonehenge	11	1,068	2	3
Weymouth & Portland	9	1,388	2	3
Wimborne	22	2,579	4	4
Guernsey			2	2
Jersey			2	2
General Synod			4	6
Ex-Officio			4	2
Co-opted (Up to)			5	5
Bishop's Nominations (Up to)			5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>TOTAL</b> (inc 3 for House of Bishops)				<b>148</b>

Please note that the co-options and Bishop's nominations are "up to" 5 in each category and not a mandatory total. Synod or the Bishop may choose either formally or informally to co-opt or nominate fewer than 5 in order to make the numbers of clergy and laity exactly equal if desired. The legal requirement is for the numbers of the houses of clergy and laity to be "approximately" equal.

## Timetable

The timetable as agreed by the Diocesan Bishop and Bishop's Council is as follows:

Month	Activities
November	Confirmation of numbers to be elected to Deanery Synod Secretaries.
December	Rural Deans and Lay Chairs to be asked to nominate Presiding Officers for their deanery.
January 2024	
February	Diocesan Bishop appoints Presiding Officers
March	Deanery Secretaries check and confirm registers of electors.
April	Election paperwork and registers of electors are sent to Presiding Officers
May	27 May – close of nominations (allowing at least 21 days from issue of papers by Presiding Officers).
June	24 June – all elections completed (allowing at least 14 days from issue of voting papers in the few instances that a vote is required).  25 June – Write to new Synod/DBF members regarding elections to Chairs of Houses, Chair DBF, Vice Chair DBF and Bishop's Council
July	Commencement of elections and appointments to remaining Boards, Committees and Groups – subject to whether a second round of elections is required to fill Chair and Council vacancies. Election timings are therefore not precise from this point.
August	1 August – start of new triennium.
January 2025	1 January – new Vacancy in See triennium begins