

Date: December 2025

To: PCC Secretary / Electoral Roll Officer

CC: Deanery Synod Secretaries, Lay Chairs, (Assistant/Acting) Area Deans, Archdeacons

Dear PCC Secretary, and Electoral Roll Officer,

Deanery Synod: Election of Lay Representatives 2026-2029

Deanery Synod elections are due to take place next year, forming part of the business of Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM). ***More information along with the relevant forms and notices will be circulated separately so that you can hold the elections in 2026, to be completed by 31 May 2026.***

We have included a brief overview of the Deanery Synod Election process below, along with details regarding the allocation of lay and clergy representatives for your deanery and parish (**Appendix 1**), so that you are prepared in advance.

Timing: The new Deanery Synod triennium starts on 1st July 2026 to 30th June 2029.

Background

Representation: the guidance in the Church Representation Rules 2020 (Rule 25) states that the total number of members of any Deanery Synod shall not be more than 150 and so far as is practicable, shall not be less than 50 and this includes the number of members who may be co-opted by each house.

The Diocesan Synod in October 2025 approved continuing with the following formula:

Number on Electoral Roll	0-25	26-75	76 - 150	151 - 200	201+
Deanery Synod Reps	1	2	3	4	5

This formula was agreed to ensure that parishes could be reasonably well represented but also recognising that it might be challenging for some parishes to find people to take on these duties.

Applying this formula gives the following memberships for the 2026 elections:

DEANERY	HOUSE OF LAITY	HOUSE OF CLERGY	TOTAL	EITHER HOUSE
	To Be Elected	Members		Co-opted
Carsington	54	14	68	3
Derby City	76	57	133	3
Dove and Derwent	48	9	57	3
Hardwick	40	13	53	3
Mercia	48	15	63	3
North East	52	32	84	3
Peak	70	22	92	3
South East	59	20	79	3

In addition to the elected lay members a deanery may co-opt additional members providing that the number shall not exceed three.

Ex-officio lay members will automatically, become part of the Deanery Synod House of Laity, and are additional to the numbers elected/co-opted. These may for example include members of General Synod / Diocesan Synod.

Lay Membership Overview

Number of representatives for 2026-2029: The number of Lay representatives a parish can elect is determined by the size of its church Electoral Roll. Please refer to the accompanying document (**Appendix 1**). Parishes are sorted by Deanery and listed alphabetically. You will find your number of lay representations in the right-hand column.

Eligibility: Lay members must be at least 16 years old, be an actual communicant, and be on the church's Electoral Roll.

Clergy Membership – for information only

As in previous years, Clergy Membership of Deanery Synod consists of:

- All clerks licensed to any parish or benefice in the deanery.
- Non-PTO Clergy are automatically members and do not need to be elected.
- Any clerical member of General Synod or Diocesan Synod resident in the deanery.
- Any clergy holding the Bishop's licence to work in the Diocese and is resident in the deanery.
- One clerk for every ten clerks who are holding permission to officiate and are resident in the deanery. Nominations are undertaken locally by a separate process.

Your hard work and commitment are deeply appreciated, especially as we approach the Deanery Synod elections. Thank you for everything you do to help our church communities.

Yours sincerely

Two handwritten signatures are shown side-by-side. The signature on the left is 'Will Hagger' and the signature on the right is 'Amanda Shreeve'.

Will Hagger
Diocesan Secretary

Amanda Shreeve
Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer

Enclosed: Appendix 1 – Deanery Synod allocation by Parish