



Date: March 2026

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

Further to our letter circulated in December, we are pleased to bring further clarity to the Deanery Synod election process, scheduled for the spring of 2026. The successful candidates will serve a three-year term starting on **1 July 2026, ending on 30 June 2029**.

Deanery Synod: Parishes are asked to encourage eligible members to consider standing for election to the Deanery Synod. Deanery Synods typically meet three to four times per year. Members are responsible for reporting on Synod business to their Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) and play a key role as the electorate for both Diocesan and General Synod elections. Notably, the newly elected House of Laity in each Deanery Synod will form the electorate for the **2026 General Synod elections**, making the timely reporting of election results essential.

Key Information *(further information on page 2)*

- **Elections:** To be held during the 2026 APCMs
- **Term of Office:** 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2029
- **Eligibility:** Lay candidates must be aged 16 or over, be actual communicants, and be included on the parish Electoral Roll
- **Ex Officio Members:** Existing members of the Diocesan Synod remain ex officio members of the Deanery Synod and PCC until 31 July 2027

Representation

- The number of lay representatives each parish may elect is determined by the size of its Electoral Roll, using the formula approved by the Diocesan Synod in October 2025. Details are set out in the separate table which lists parishes by deanery and confirms the number of representatives for each parish—previously shared with you in December 2025, and as **Appendix 1** of this letter.
- Licensed clergy are members of the Deanery Synod ex officio. Clergy holding Permission to Officiate (PTO) follow a separate process; further details are available from your Deanery Synod Secretary.

Action Required

- **Elections:** Hold elections at your 2026 APCM
- **Nominations:** Nomination forms are attached to the accompanying email and are also available on the diocesan website.
- **Deadline:** Results must be submitted by **31 May 2026**
- **Reporting Results:** Please send the names of elected representatives to both your Deanery Synod Secretary (and to me at: pccresults@derby.anglican.org)

For ease of reference, the relevant section of the Church Representation Rules are copied below, along with a link to the online version: [Church Representation Rules online - part 9 | The Church of England](#)

Church Representation Rules - Conduct of an election

M9 (1) This Rule applies in the case of every election which is to take place at the annual meeting, subject to any variations made by a resolution under [Rule M10](#) or [M11](#).

(2) A candidate must be nominated, either before the meeting in writing or at the meeting, by two persons each of whom –

- (a) must be entitled to attend the meeting, and
- (b) must have his or her name on the roll of a parish.

(3) If the number of candidates does not exceed the number of seats to be filled, any person who is entitled to attend the meeting may move a resolution that a vote be held, in the case of each candidate, on whether that candidate should be elected; but if a resolution under this paragraph is not moved, or is moved and not passed, each candidate is declared elected.

(3A) Where a resolution under paragraph (3) is passed, a vote is to be held on the proposition, in the case of each candidate, that that candidate should be elected; and for that purpose –

- (a) every person whose name is on the roll of the parish is entitled to take part in a vote held under this paragraph,
- (b) each person so entitled may, in the case of each candidate, cast only a single vote for or against the proposition (and Rule M10 accordingly does not apply to the vote), and
- (c) paragraphs (7) to (10) of this Rule apply to the vote.

(4) If the number of candidates exceeds the number of seats to be filled, an election must take place in accordance with the following provisions.

(5) Every lay person whose name is on the roll of the parish is entitled to vote in the election.

(6) Each person entitled to vote has as many votes as there are seats to be filled, but may not give more than one vote to the same candidate.

(7) Votes may be given by a show of hands; but if one or more persons object to that, each vote is to be given on a voting paper signed on the back by the voter.

(8) If there is an equality of votes, the election is decided by the drawing of a lot by the presiding officer.

(9) On a recount of an election or a stage of an election, either on an appeal or at the request of the presiding officer or a candidate, if the original count and the recount are identical at the point when a lot must be drawn, the original lot must be used to decide.

(10) The presiding officer for an election at the annual meeting is the chair of the meeting, unless a presiding officer is appointed under [Rule M11\(3\)](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. Please contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Will Hagger
Diocesan Secretary



Amanda Shreeve
Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer

Enclosed : Appendix 1 - Deanery Synod Numbers