



29 July 2021

Dear Synod members,

These are challenging and exciting times for the diocese and for churches!

On top of all that the Church of England structures of government remain in their traditional form – **the Synods**. The word is Classical Greek and means (*people travelling*) ‘*on a road together*’, so our General, Diocesan and Deanery Synods, whilst under the final authority of the Bishops, are where clergy and lay people can share together the governance of the church ... well they can if their peers elect them!

Each Synod has a worked-out number of places for its clergy and its laity and this time round, our Diocesan and Deanery Synods both have unfilled places. This is not good because it leaves the circulating of information and power of decision making to a smaller number of people, and this is not what the church wants or needs in these changing times.

Julian and Christine urge you to look around in your churches for people whom you could nominate on to Diocesan or Deanery Synods so that the full potential of the collaborative working of the church can be realized and thoughtful and prayerful ... and hopefully wise... decisions can be made, and fellowship deepened.

If you have any technical queries Sian Kellogg in Church House (sian.kellogg@derby.anglican.org) will help!

May God be with us all!

Christine McMullen
Chair of the House of Laity

Fr Julian Hollywell
Chair of the House of Clergy