

What is Diocesan Synod?

The Diocesan Synod brings together elected clergy and lay members from the parishes of our Diocese's eight deaneries. The Bishop of Derby is the Diocesan Synod president.

What does Synod do?

- It considers matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to the diocese.
- It advises the bishop on any matters on which she may consult the synod.
- It considers and expresses its opinion on matters referred to it by the General Synod.
- It considers proposals for the annual budget for the diocese.
- It considers the annual accounts of the diocesan board of finance of the diocese.

That means we listen, learn, discuss, debate, and decide together on matters of interest to our local contexts, that impact on our shared life as a diocese and help shape the Church nationally.

The new Diocesan Synod

The next elections to Diocesan Synod (for a term of 3 years) will take place in **April - July 2024**. Elections are carried out by Deanery Synods. Two Presiding Officers have been appointed in each deanery – for impartiality, Lay colleagues are the Presiding Officers for the Clergy election, and Clergy colleagues for the Laity elections.

Who may stand for election?

Any clergy person who is a voting member of a deanery synod, and any lay person who is a member of a church electoral roll may stand as a candidate. Members of deanery synods are the electors. The hope is for those elected to represent the diversity of each deanery that our Diocesan Synod may bring together voices and perspectives from the whole diocese.

In addition, we particularly encourage nominations from representatives who will support our strategic ambition to grow younger and more diverse and from those who are currently underrepresented on Diocesan Synod:

- UK Minority Ethnic/Global Majority Heritage (UKME/GMH) members.
- Youth representatives.
- Those living with physical, mental, and neurodivergent challenges.
- LGBTQI+ representatives.

What is the time commitment?

Diocesan Synod meets three times a year in March, June, and October usually for 3-4 hours on a Saturday morning. In March 2025 we will be trialling a mid-week evening virtual Synod.

What's in it for me and my church? (Reflections from members at the March 2024 Diocesan Synod)

"It is good to see your own church in the context of the wider church and to see how you fit into the Bishop's vision...there are many ways we can support each other across the diocese, but without knowing each other it's not possible!"

"It's an opportunity to offer feedback into decision-making processes. It's important that parishes have a say in what happens in the Diocese".

"It is a really important role that shapes the diocese now and for the future. It is key that people engage across the spectrum of traditions, demographics, and age".

"...it is an important space for younger voices to engage. I would particularly like to encourage younger people to engage..."

Being part of the Derby Diocesan Synod provides a great opportunity to be part of the future shaping of the Diocese of Derby.