

The Role of the Lay Chair of Deanery Synod

Appointment and Conditions of Service

- Lay chairs are elected by the deanery synod House of Laity for the three-year life of the synod.
- It is strongly recommended that the lay chair be formally commissioned at a deanery event, perhaps when the rural dean/assistant rural dean is commissioned. The responsibilities of the Lay Chair of synod are outlined below. There may be other reasonable roles and responsibilities that are agreed in consultation with the rural dean.

Responsibilities of the Lay Chair of Deanery Synod

1. As required by synodical legislation

- To act as co-chair of the deanery synod
- Sit as an ex-officio member of Deanery Standing Committee
- To act as returning officer for the election of deanery clergy representatives to diocesan synod.
- To be consulted where pastoral reorganisation is in prospect.
- To be asked for advice where there are 'material disagreements' concerning worship in a parish.
- To be invited to any Section 12 meetings under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure.

2. In the light of the evolving role of deaneries and the rural dean

- To be active in bringing together the views of the parishes of the deanery, getting to know the parishes and the people and understanding their concerns.
- To help foster a common sense of community and interdependence among the parishes of the deanery.
- To promote in the deanery the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- To play a full part in the life of the deanery, representing the deanery at the licensing of new priests, archdeacon's visitations, and other events.
- To share (if appropriate) in the programme of parish visitations undertaken by rural deans.
- To work with the Rural Dean to facilitate full payment of Parish Share across the deanery

3. In the life of the diocese

- Through the regular meeting of lay chairs, rural deans and bishops, to act as an important conduit between leadership in the diocese, the deanery and the parishes
- To work with the rural dean in ensuring that the deaneries are key agents of mission in their communities and are encouraging Parish Plus initiatives.