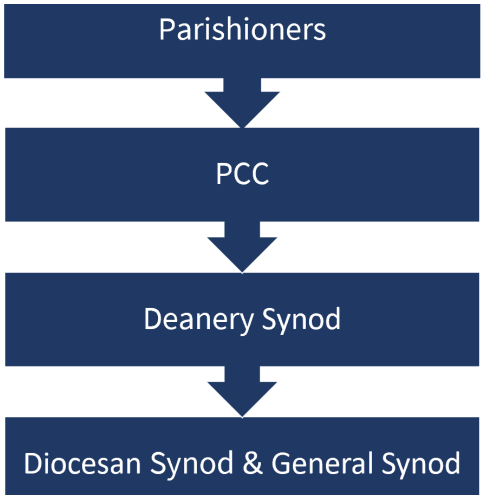
WHERE DOES DEANERY SYNOD FIT IN?

All sort of decisions will be made over the next three years, about the church in your local area, your Diocese and about the life of our national church at General Synod. By taking part in just a few meetings a year as a member of your Deanery Synod you will be part of the electorate for your Diocesan and General Synod and have more say in who represents you in that decision making process.



The Parish is at the heart of the Church of England; Parishes are the front line of the Church of England. They faithfully serve our communities up and down the country. Your Deanery Synod is a collection of your beloved, individual local Parishes. The idea of the Parish informs every aspect of our mission and our vision of ourselves as a church.

The Save The Parish network seeks a rebalancing of resources of all kinds - clergy, finance, support for church buildings - towards providing for our Parishes. We want to stop parish mergers, and ensure that every priest has a manageable number of Parishes.
Help us to ensure that the local Parish voice is heard at every level of life and governance in the Church of England.

savetheparish.com

SAVE THE PARISH NETWORK

STANDING UP FOR PARISHES

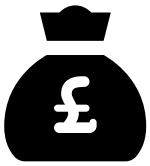


STANDING FOR DEANERY SYNOD

WHAT DOES MY DEANERY SYNOD DO & WHY BE ON IT?

The Deanery Synod is a **representative body** for Church of England churches in the local area (Deanery), to which each Parish is entitled to send (usually) two or more lay representatives.

In most Dioceses, **Parish Share** is allocated by Dioceses to Deaneries, and Deanery Synods are then responsible for dividing up the total amount between Parishes/Benefices in the Deanery as they see fit.



This can feel as though Deaneries are expected to do the Diocese's dirty work! (Please note that some Dioceses will have different systems in place, and Deanery Synods do not have this function.)



Deaneries have a **Pastoral Committee** (which may also be the Deanery Standing Committee) that is responsible for discussing pastoral reorganisation, i.e. Parish/Benefice mergers within the Deanery. Any member of Deanery Synod (clergy or laity) can stand for election to this Committee..

Deanery Synod members are also the **electorate** for your Diocesan Synod & the General Synod, as well as being able to nominate candidates. The electorate is not large, so one vote can really make a difference to who represents you.



Deanery Synod meetings take place three or four, times a year. Sometimes, meetings might seem tedious or pointless; but they are the price to be paid for being in the room when important decisions are taken.

'The world is run by those who turn up!'
(There is, of course, no obligation to turn up for every meeting.)

WHO IS ON DEANERY SYNOD?

- **Licenced & Beneficed clergy** are automatically on their local Deanery Synod.
- **Clergy with PTO** are entitled to choose/elect one in ten of their number.
- **Lay Deanery Synod members** are elected at the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) every 3 years. Deanery Synod elections are due to take place in 2023.
- The timing of APCMs varies between Parishes, but by law they must take place by 31st May—so yours might be coming up very soon.
- Any lay person who is on the Electoral Roll of a Parish church can stand for election to the Deanery Synod. You do not have to have been on the PCC before, although all Deanery Synod members become ex officio members of their PCC.
- You should bear in mind that PCC members are generally expected to do their best to turn up for PCC meetings, circumstances permitting. PCC meetings are likely to be more frequent than Deanery Synod meetings, but they are often found to be more useful, since they discuss practical matters pertaining to the running of your Parish church.

HOW DO I GET ELECTED?

- It is often difficult to find people who are willing to be on Deanery Synod, so if you put your name forward, it is quite likely that there will be no competition.
- For laity, it is a good idea to mention your interest as soon as possible to your PCC Secretary and/or incumbent, since they may be looking for volunteers to fill places. You could also talk to the existing Deanery Synod members in your church, and indicate that you would be interested in taking on the role if they are stepping down.
- For clergy with PTO, elections are likely to be organised through the Deanery Chapter: speak to whoever organises these.
- If there are more candidates than places (and one of the candidates doesn't decide to stand down), an election will take place at the APCM.
- Although every APCM is different, it is unlikely that you will have an opportunity to make any formal election statement.
- If an election is on the cards, you will improve your chances if people know you, and you have taken an opportunity to talk to people informally beforehand about why you are standing.