

## ELECTIONS TO DIOCESAN SYNOD IN JUNE 2024: INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

1. Norwich Diocesan Synod is the body, with the Bishop, which sets policy and guides activity in the Diocese of Norwich.

The Synod is like a parliament, formed of the Bishops and Archdeacons of the Diocese along with elected representatives of clergy and lay people from across the Diocese. The total membership of the Synod is about 120, divided almost equally between clergy and laity. It is elected every three years by members of the Deanery Synods and meets three times yearly, usually in March, June and October/November.

Synod considers all aspects of church life: initiatives being referred to it from the national church; diocesan issues over priorities of work; sharing of information on the life of the church at a local level - and makes decisions, along with the Diocesan Bishop, on key policies affecting the Church in the Diocese. Its agendas and the reports on its business show the breadth of its work.

The members of the Diocesan Synod are also members of the Diocesan Board of Finance, who elect representatives to other Diocesan committees. The members meet for the formal Annual General Meeting of the Company immediately before the start of the June Synod meeting.

Like Deanery Synods, Diocesan Synod is made up of Houses: Laity, Clergy and (unlike Deaneries) Bishops. Very occasionally, a House will need to meet separately but this is usually immediately before or after the main Synod meeting.

2. Any lay person who is an actual communicant of sixteen years or upwards and whose name is entered on the roll of any Parish in the Deanery or who is a lay person declared by the Dean to be an habitual worshipper at the Cathedral and to be associated with the Deanery, is qualified for election by the House of Laity of that Deanery Synod.
3. Any Clerk in Holy Orders who is a member of the Deanery Synod is qualified for election by the House of Clergy of that Deanery Synod.
4. There are three Diocesan Synod meetings per calendar year: two meetings in person and a third online. Occasionally, for some particular purpose, an extra meeting may also be held.
5. Two of the three meetings (March and October/November) are held on Saturdays usually 09.30 to 13.00. The third, in June, is occasionally held mid-week in the evening. Dates are made known the year before. The date of any extra meeting would depend on the particular circumstances of the business to be dealt with.
6. The first meeting of the new triennium will be held on Saturday, 23 November 2024, in person.
7. We would encourage all prospective candidates, please, to consider carefully whether they can commit themselves to regular and frequent attendance over the coming three years so that they can make a full contribution to the work of the Diocesan Synod.

For queries relating to the Diocesan Synod elections and other matters relating to the Diocesan Synod please contact The Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton, NR9 5ES.