

Elections for the membership of our Diocesan Synod are happening soon, for the House of Clergy and House of Laity. Elections take place every three years and are next in late May/early June this year.

The nominations period for election will run from May 4-17.

- [This page on our website](https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/diocesan-synod) (full url: <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/diocesan-synod>) tells you more about our Diocesan Synod.
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A leading role in the Diocese

A message from Bishop Julian

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

As you know, our Diocesan Synod is the governing body of The Church of England in Lancashire. As well as the Bishops (House of Bishops) membership is drawn from clergy (for the House of Clergy) and parishioners (for the House of Laity).

This year is a Diocesan Synod election year and you are invited to consider standing.

As always, we are keen for Christians from under-represented parts of the Church to engage with the work of the Diocese through our Diocesan Synod, including young people. The importance of inspiring children and young people is central to Vision 2026 and this is a tangible way of doing that.

The past year has seen unprecedented changes as we have come to terms with the impact of the pandemic. But, in lockdown, we have found new ways to pray and to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Now we have a chance to put that strengthened faith into practice as we slowly begin to unlock.

As a member of Diocesan Synod, you could have a leading role in this work. So, I urge you to consider standing or, alternatively, to prayerfully encourage someone you believe would do well on Synod do so.

Please note, although Deanery Synod members nominate and vote in the elections you don't need to be a member of your Deanery Synod to stand for election. Anyone standing must be over 16 years old and registered on the electoral roll of a parish in the Deanery.

Thank you considering standing for Diocesan Synod or encouraging others to do so. The rest of this website page (see below) that tells you more about how to get involved in the nomination process.

We stand at the threshold of an important period in the life of the Diocese.

Together we can continue our work to make disciples, be witnesses, grow leaders and inspire children and young people for Jesus Christ.

As ever in Christ,

Bishop Julian

More information about Diocesan Synod

We have a separate page on this website that tells you much more about the work of Diocesan Synod. You can access it [by clicking here](https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/diocesan-synod) (full url: <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/diocesan-synod>)

How will I be involved if I'm elected?

Diocesan Synod is consulted by Bishop Julian on matters of general importance and concern to our Diocese.

Members of our Diocesan Synod also provide a connection back to Deanery synods and PCCs as they can report to local meetings after each Synod.

Diocesan Synod members usually meet three times a year – usually on a Saturday but sometimes weekday evenings – to discuss issues facing the Church and to share experiences and make contacts right across the Diocese.

Members of Synod can also put themselves forward for other boards and committees, such as the Bishop's Council.

Who can stand for Diocesan Synod?

The first thing to say here is you do not need to be a member of your Deanery Synod to stand for Diocesan Synod. Parishioners who would like to stand for election must be over 16 years old and registered on the electoral roll of a parish in the deanery.

For more on eligibility criteria for the House of Clergy and the House of Laity see Section 36 of the Church Representation Rules [which are here](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/part-4) on the national Church of England website. (Full url: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/part-4>)

We want to see a Diocesan Synod that is representative of our people and parishes in every way. If you have a passion for making disciples, being witnesses, growing leaders and inspiring children and young people for Jesus Christ and you could effectively and prayerfully ...

- consider a wide variety of issues
- listen with attentiveness and contribute during debates
- prayerfully consider all the issues put to Synod
- make decisions for the good of our Diocese
- regularly communicate the work of deanery synods and PCCs to Diocesan Synod AND also communicate the business of Diocesan Synod back to deanery synods and PCCs

... then we want you to consider getting involved!

More information about nominations

To represent your Deanery, you will need to complete a nomination form – speak to your parish priest or PCC Secretary. (Eligible clergy will automatically receive a nomination form).

Once you have completed your nomination form it must be proposed and seconded by two members of your Deanery Synod. For parishioners (laity) your proposer and seconder will be from the House of Laity. For clerical positions they will be from the House of Clergy.

Please note that, if elected, and while you are a member of Diocesan Synod you will also be an 'ex officio' member of your Deanery Synod and PCC.

More information on eligibility can be found in the Church Representation Rules [which are here](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/part-4) on the national Church of England website. (Full url: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/part-4>)

Next steps after nominations

Once initial nominations are in, members of each Deanery Synod vote to elect members for Diocesan Synod from those nominated within their Deanery. Election ballot papers will be circulated at the end of May. The full nominations and voting timetable follows in the next section.

Timetable for nominations and voting

- May 4 – issue of nomination papers
- May 17 – return of nomination papers
- May 26 – issue ballot papers
- June 16 – Ballot papers returned
- June 18-21 Votes counted
- June 22 Presiding officer announces/issues results