

What is Deanery Synod?

What does it do?



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

The Deanery Synod is the link between your PCC and the Diocesan Synod and has an important life of its own. The Deanery Synod is part of the system of Government established by the Church of England by the Synodical Government Measure of 1969. The normal life of the Deanery Synod is 3 years.

The word 'Synod' comes from 2 Greek words meaning 'the way' and 'together'. It describes a partnership of church members, bishops, clergy and lay people together.

It consists of 2 Houses, 1 of laity, mainly elected by people in the parishes, and 1 of clergy, largely consisting of the licensed clergy.

More and more often – decisions which affect the parish are being made by Deanery Synod.

Responsibilities

- › To serve and help to deliver the diocesan Strategic Priorities, engaging in the deanery mission action planning process.
- › You may be called upon to vote in the 5-yearly General Synod elections. You will need to vote thoughtfully and prayerfully, knowing that decisions of the General Synod affect your diocese, deanery and parish. **Elections are due in 2015.**
- › The Deanery Synod is charged with monitoring and supporting the allocation of Parish Share as fairly as possible. Help to see that this is done but don't let money dominate Synod meetings.
- › Be willing to share, as much as you can, in deanery projects, whether services, festivals, fund-raising, entertaining visitors from overseas link dioceses or other ventures.
- › Deaneries are tasked with preparing and updating Mission & Pastoral Plans based on the detailed local knowledge of those involved—**this is one of the most important areas of strategic work for all deaneries.**

Officers & Committees

The House of Clergy is chaired by the Area Dean who is appointed by the Bishop. The Chair of the House of Laity is elected by the lay members at the beginning of each 3 year term. The Area Dean and Lay Chair share the chairing of the Synod.

The Synod elects its own Secretary and Treasurer and such committees as it needs. Synods vary enormously in this respect, but all need a Standing Committee, to plan its affairs. Finance and Pastoral Committees are also desirable.

The Chair of the Deanery Finance Committee is involved in the diocesan consultative process on the annual budget and plays an important part in the communication process between deanery and diocese.

Members of the Pastoral Committee work with the Area Mission & Pastoral Committees which have a responsibility for reviewing the deployment of stipendiary clergy across its deaneries and for initiating any requirements for pastoral reorganisation.

We are looking for people who have:

- › A passion for Jesus Christ
- › A passion for your local church
- › A passion to improve communication from parish to diocese
- › A passion to engage more fully with diocesan and national decisions
- › A passion for the 'big' picture
- › A passion to be part of building the kingdom
- › A passion for bold, innovative and careful thinking
- › A passion for dynamic and organic change
- › A passion for seeing your deanery as a strategic unit for mission and ministry
- › A passion to live the mission of Jesus, **deanery-shaped**

What can I do as a member of a Deanery Synod?

1. Make sure that those elected to Deanery Synods are people who have some responsibility in their parishes.
2. Ensure that there is time on your PCC agenda for reports from Deanery (and Diocesan) Synods. Your role is as much about communication as it is about voting.
3. Bring matters you feel strongly about to your PCC for debate so that motions can be sent to Deanery Synod for wider discussion.
4. Ask questions of Deanery Synod officers (giving 7 days notice of your intention). This is a useful way of finding out what is going on.
5. Aim to get to know 1 new person on the Synod each time you meet.
6. Learn as much as you can about your parish and the deanery.
7. Pray for the Area Dean, Lay Chair and Deanery Synod members.
8. Remember that you are a representative of your parish and not a delegate. The vote you cast is your own.
9. Don't be afraid to speak. It may not be easy but your view matters.
10. Join in discussions. Don't let others do all the talking!

Diocesan Synod agreed the following Strategic Priorities in 2013:

Under God, delighting in His grace and rooted in the Diocesan rule of life, we will be a Diocese in which:

We grow authentic disciples, going out as individuals passionately, confidently and courageously sharing their faith, and coming together as creative church communities of prayer and worship that live out Kingdom values.

We re-imagine the Church intentionally connecting and engaging with our local communities in culturally relevant ways. We will rejoice in the richness of the 'mixed economy' of all ministry and proactively promote vibrant parochial and breathtaking pioneering ministries amongst 'missing' generations, eg children, young people, under 35s.

We are agents of social transformation using our influence as a Diocese to transform public and personal life. We will demonstrate loving faith at work in local communities and across the globe bringing healing, restoration and reconciliation, eg through education, social enterprise, health care, spiritual care teams.

We belong together in Christ, practising sacrificial living and good stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. We will combine radical generosity, care and capacity building with a clear focus on directing finance into the mission of Jesus. Sharing and multiplying local good practice, using people, buildings and other resources wisely, we will seek to boldly prune, plant and invest in building for the Kingdom.

Join us as we seek to become a mission-shaped diocese.