

Deanery Synod representative – description of role and duties

Role in brief: to represent the parish of St Andrew's, Catford at Deanery Synod, and to report back from the Deanery Synod to the PCC.

The Deanery Synod consists of the clergy and representatives of all the parishes in the deanery. It provides a channel of communication between parishes and the Diocesan Synod and brings together the views and experiences of all the parishes in the deanery. **It normally meets three times a year.**

The number of representatives elected by each parish depends on the number on the church electoral roll. **We can have up to three Deanery Synod Representatives.** Terms are 3 years. Deanery Synod Representatives are also automatically members of the PCC. The General Synod is due for election in 2026 and it is the Deanery Synod Representatives who vote for the candidates from the laity in this diocese.

In brief, anyone above the age of 16, a communicant (baptised person) and on the electoral roll at St Andrew's for over 6 months can be nominated (see nomination form for more details). For safeguarding, Deanery Synod reps, as with all on the PCC, must have a DBS check.

For more in-depth information, see below:

Deaneries are small geographical divisions of the Diocese, within which parishes are grouped under the care of an Area Dean. Each deanery is governed by a deanery synod.

The deanery synod is a statutory body. There are 24 deanery synods, one per deanery, each consisting, in the main, of the licensed and beneficed clergy of the deanery; **the lay parochial representatives elected by the annual parochial church meetings of each parish in the deanery**, and ex-officio (General and Diocesan Synod) members.

Deanery Synods potentially have a significant role in the synodical system. They are located between PCCs at parish level and the higher synodical levels of Area and Diocese. One of the most important objectives of the Synodical Government Measure 1969, was to strengthen church organisation at deanery level. **The task of the deanery synods, as set out in the Measure is as follows:**

- to consider matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to their deanery, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest;
- to bring together the views of parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- to make known and so far as appropriate put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod;
- to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred to that synod by the General Synod, and to sound parochial opinion whenever they are required or consider it appropriate to do so;
- to raise matters, as the deanery synod consider appropriate, with the Diocesan Synod.