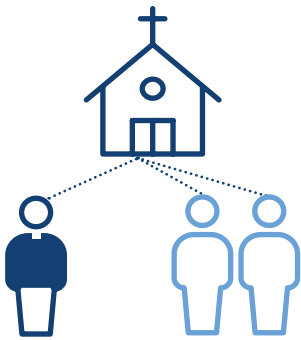


Deanery Synod Representatives

Information and Application Process 2026

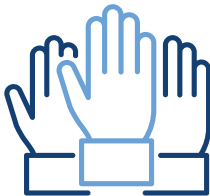
Overview



Each church has Lay Representatives that attend Deanery Synod with their clergy, to represent their parish.



The allocation of Lay Representatives is calculated by each parish electoral roll and complies with the Church Representation Rules 2025.



The Lay Representatives are elected at the annual parish meeting (Annual Parochial Church Meeting - APCM).
Elections are to be completed no later than 31 May 2026.



Lay Representatives can hold office for a term of three years from 1 July. The next three year period of **Deanery Synod starts on 1 July 2026.**



Once elected, you have the opportunity to run for Lay Chair; an exciting chance for strategic joint leadership and collaboration with the Area Dean.

Synod (noun): An assembly of church representatives, part of Christian practice since ancient times, they are now a statutory responsibility, borne by all members of all churches. These assemblies integrate the callings and vocations of the lay and ordained people of God.

About Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synods typically meet three times a year to discuss items such as topical issues, Deanery plans, motions to be raised for consideration by the Diocesan Synod and hear from external speakers.

The Deanery Synod is also a place where the 'voice' of parishes can be heard more widely, and a space for them to discuss and debate common issues.

- Are you a **keen collaborator**, willing to work with people from other parishes across the Deanery?
- Are you someone who is open to **new and creative ways of working?**
- Do you have a **passion for mission** at the local and diocesan level?

Your Deanery Synod is an important part of the structure and culture of the whole Church of England. Its meetings are concerned with seeking God's will for the mission and ministry of the church where you are.

Deanery Synod Representatives are elected every three years, and the next elections are between **March - May 2026**.

Anyone aged 16 or over who has been on the electoral roll for at least six months can be elected as a Deanery Synod Representative. Ideally your reps should reflect your congregation and at present UK ethnic minority / global majority heritage groups, younger people, and people with disabilities tend to be under-represented.

- Please think and pray about whether you are called to this role or whether there is anyone you know who you could encourage to stand.

Please also talk about the forth-coming elections for Deanery Synod with your PCC members, vicar and church leaders.

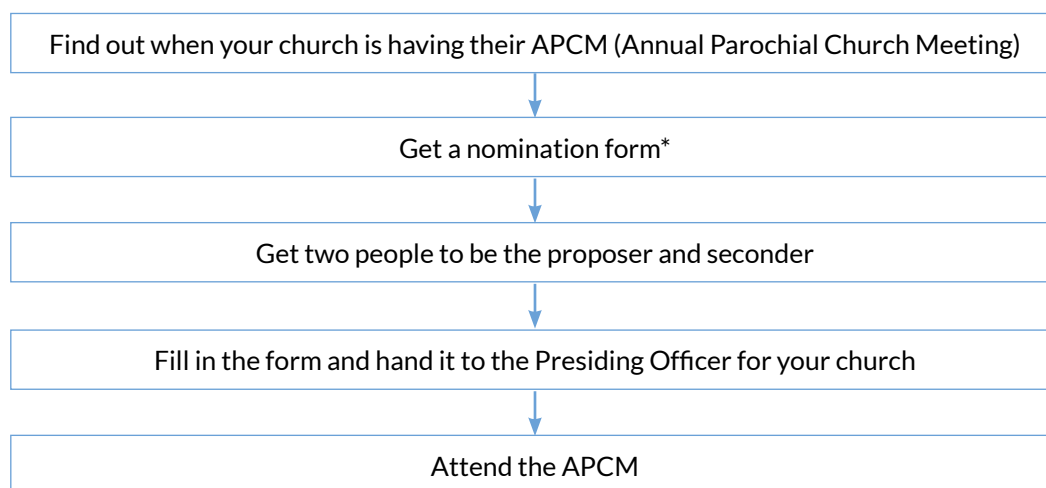
What is a Deanery?

A Deanery is a geographical grouping of parishes within a particular area of a Diocese. Within the Church of England Birmingham, there are six Deaneries.

The parishes in the Deanery elect lay members of their congregation to join the clergy in the Deanery to form the Deanery Synod. These are led by the ordained Area Dean and a Lay Chair.

How do I get involved?

If you want to be elected or know someone that would be a great Representative for your church, here's what you need to do:



*You can either download the form at www.dio.org.uk/deanerysynodnomform or use the form on the following page.

Nomination for election to the Deanery Synod

	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
We <i>(insert names)</i>		
of <i>(insert address)</i>		
<i>Email address*</i>		
being members of the electoral roll of this parish,		
hereby nominate <i>(full name)</i>		
of <i>(insert address)</i>		
<i>Email address*</i>		
as a candidate for election to the Deanery Synod at the annual meeting on _____		
	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Signed		
<i>I declare that I am a communicant of 16 years or over and not disqualified, and that if elected, I consent to serve.</i>		
Signed: Nominee		
Date:		

Declarations

- Nominees must be:
 - at least sixteen years of age;
 - actual communicants;
 - on the Electoral Roll of this Parish for at least six months.
- Proposers and seconders must be on the Electoral Roll of this Parish.
- No person shall be nominated unless they have signified their consent to serve, or there is in the opinion of the meeting sufficient evidence thereof. No person shall be nominated if they are disqualified from serving by the Church Representation Rules (below).

*pursuant to Rule 76(1), by providing your email address you are agreeing to: (i) receive any communication authorised by or under the CRRs at that email address; and
(ii) any disclosure of your name and address authorised by or under the CRRs will include your email address.

Disqualification (Church Representation Rules 7, Rules 63 and 68)

A person shall be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or any synod under these rules if the person:

- 3 (1) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or a joint council if the person is disqualified from being a trustee of a charity (and the disqualification is not subject to a waiver which permits membership of a parochial church council, district church council or joint council).
- (2) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).
- (3) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (with that expression being construed in accordance with Rule 71(2) of the Church Representation Rules).
- (4) A person's disqualification under sub-paragraph (3) may be waived by the bishop of the diocese by giving the person notice in writing.
- (5) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council if the person has been disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbent (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977.

Note

In order to confirm that you are eligible to act as a charity trustee, all newly elected PCC members will be required to sign a declaration confirming their eligibility to hold office as a charity trustee eligibility (i.e. non-disqualification under charity law). Most newly elected PCC members will also be asked to sign a Fit and Proper Person declaration. A copy of these declarations can be found at www.parishresources.org.uk/pccs/apcms/

By confirming that you are eligible for election, you are confirming that you are able to sign these declarations.