



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# Your voice counts

Synod Elections 2015

[www.synodelections.org](http://www.synodelections.org)

# “Everyone has something to offer and the Synod can learn from everyone”

## What is the General Synod?

The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England, commonly referred to as the Church’s Parliament. It considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, authorises new forms of worship, debates matters of religious and public interest, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

## Why stand ?

Because your voice counts!

Everyone has something to offer and the Synod can learn from everyone. Don’t let age put you off – we need younger as well as older members! If you are 18 or above, you are eligible to stand. We particularly encourage BAME and people with disabilities to stand as both groups are currently underrepresented amongst the membership of the General Synod.

Being a member of Synod can be tremendously rewarding and make you feel that you are part of something really worthwhile.

## Who can stand?

Any serving clergy or retired clergy with permission to officiate in a diocese and any communicant lay person who is on a church electoral roll (or cathedral roll) and is 18 or above can stand. There is no need for lay candidates to be on a PCC, deanery synod or diocesan synod.

## Time commitment and expectations?

Each year being on Synod involves a commitment of up to 5 working days in February in London and one long weekend in July in York. The Synod sometimes also meets for up to 3 days in November in London,

but only if there is enough business.

It is important to read the papers in advance of each meeting of the Synod. This will make it easier to take an active role in listening to debates, contributing when you feel able to do so and voting in an informed way.

## Do I get paid?

No. Like serving on a jury or as a school governor, being a member of the General Synod is unpaid, but you can claim expenses from your diocese.

## Next steps?

Get nominated!

Both clergy and laity need to find a proposer and seconder (clergy need to be nominated by clergy electors in their diocese and lay people need to be nominated by two lay members of a deanery synod in their diocese).

If you are not yourself an elector your diocesan office will also be able to provide you with nomination papers.

The election period is between mid-July and mid-October. Check with your diocesan office or on your diocesan website for the exact timetable.

## Who can vote?

Clergy in the diocese vote for clergy candidates, while lay members of deanery synods vote for lay candidates.

Can I be involved if I am not standing?

Absolutely. A broad range of people is vital to make General Synod as representative as possible.

There are many people involved in our churches, particularly lay people, who will have much to offer but may be unaware about the important work of General Synod and that they are eligible to stand for election. Your encouragement and support may make all the difference.

Details about your local election are available at:



Your local Parish contact for elections



Your Diocesan contact for elections

Further information can be found at:  
[www.synodelections.org](http://www.synodelections.org)