

Information and details about standing for election to the General Synod for the next five-year term 2021-2026.

What is the General Synod and what does it do?

General Synod is the legislative body of the Church of England. Together with the Westminster Parliament, it is the only body in the land which is entitled to make national law for England.

Legislative Measures passed by the Church of England are signed off by the Queen as Head of State. In addition to legislation, the General Synod also agrees the national Budget for the Church of England and debates a wide range of public and social issues from the perspective of a faith organisation.

Why stand?

This is an opportunity to represent the concerns of your community and your diocese at a national level. You can have a say in national legislation that affects all parts of the Church of England. You can also raise issues and contribute to debates on social and policy matters.

Who can stand?

The General Synod has three Houses: Bishops, Clergy and Laity. Diocesan Bishops are automatically members of Synod by virtue of their office. In addition, each province of the Church of England elects two Suffragan Bishops from each Province. Each diocese is allocated a number of seats in the Houses of Clergy and Laity – the number of seats varies according to the size of each diocese.

Any member of clergy who holds ecclesiastical office in a diocese or cathedral or who has permission to officiate can stand in an election to the House of Clergy for their diocese. Clergy representatives (known as “Proctors”) are elected by their peers, i.e. other clergy persons in that diocese.

To be elected to the House of Laity, a person must have received Communion according to the use of the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, at least three times in the twelve months up to 12th July (or would have done so but for matters connected with coronavirus); be at least 18 years old on 12th July; and must have their name on the parish roll in the diocese, on the roll of guild church in the diocese of London, on the roll of a chaplaincy in the diocese in Europe, or on the community role of a cathedral church of the diocese.

Time commitment and expectations?

General Synod usually meets twice a year for 5 days each in London and in York. Each synodical term (known as a “Quinquennium”) lasts for five years. At the start of each Quinquennium, Synod also meets in London in November for a three-day Inaugural Synod. It is very unusual for Synod to meet three times a year outside the inaugural years.

Do I get paid?

Your diocese will reimburse your expenses up to a nominated amount including travel expenses and accommodation at London Synods. For York Synods, accommodation and meals are provided on the campus of York University where Synod meets each July. Synod members may claim expenses for travel to York Synods.

How do I get nominated?

For clergy and laity, you need two people from your category to nominate you to stand for Synod; ie clergy will need two clergy people to nominate them, and lay candidates will require two members of a Deanery Synod in the diocese to nominate them. The presiding officers in each diocese will, no later than Friday 30 July 2021, issue invitations to nominate to all qualified electors, inviting them to send nominations to the presiding officer. Further detail can be found in paragraphs 37-47 of [General Synod Elections 2021 - Notes for the Guidance of Dioceses](#).

Who can vote?

All clergy in a diocese may vote for members of the House of Clergy in their diocese. Members of Deanery Synods may vote for lay members of the General Synod.

What is the voting system?

Members of the Houses of Clergy and Laity are elected using [the STV system of proportional voting](#).

Can I be involved if I am not standing?

You may be qualified to vote for members of the Clergy and House of Laity (see above for criteria). Even if you cannot vote, you can follow the proceedings of General Synod in a number of ways, e.g. by [watching proceedings on the live stream](#), [following the Twitter Feed](#), blogging and commenting on social media and (of course) praying for the work of General Synod each time it meets!

In addition, clergy and lay members of General Synods often report back on proceedings using blogs and by attending meetings of Diocesan Synod in their diocese. If you attend Diocesan Synod, this is a chance to comment and ask questions of your Synod members.

Guidance and documents

- [Synod Office Privacy Notice](#) (166.46 KB)
- [General Synod Elections 2021 - Notes for the Guidance of Dioceses](#) (324.41 KB)
- [FAQs for Online Elections](#) (162.58 KB)
- [Clergy Election Rules 2020](#) (311.86 KB)
- [Convocations Upper House Rules 2020](#) (228.62 KB)
- [House of Laity Election Rules 2020](#) (275.78 KB)

- [STV Rules 2020 \(242.69 KB\)](#)
- [Conduct of an election under the STV Regulations 1990-2015 \(261.72 KB\)](#)
- [Application for entry in the register of electors in the universities and TEI constituency \(142.21 KB\)](#)
- [Universities and TEIs - information about election.pdf \(58.35 KB\)](#)
- [Universities and TEIs Register of Electors as at 30 September 2021.pdf \(122.74 KB\)](#)

General Synod Elections 2021

Results of elections to the special constituencies are as follows:

- [Election results 2021 - Suffragan Bishops, Province of York \(185.72 KB\)](#)
 - [Election results 2021 - Suffragan Bishops, Province of Canterbury \(168.45 KB\)](#)
 - [Election results 2021 - Deans Province of Canterbury \(162.86 KB\)](#)
 - [Election results 2021 - Universities and TEIs \(168.81 KB\)](#)
 - [Election results 2021 - Deans Province of York \(22.57 KB\)](#)
 - [Election results 2021 - Religious Communities, Lay \(101.45 KB\)](#)
 - [Election Results 2021 - Religious Communities, clergy.pdf \(91.4 KB\)](#)
 - [Election results 2021 - Armed Forces \(26.21 KB\)](#)
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