

General Synod

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The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It came into being in 1970 under the Synodical Government Measure 1969, replacing an earlier body known as the Church Assembly.

The General Synod considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

Houses of the General Synod

There are 483 members of General Synod. Members are arranged into three Houses:

House of Bishops

Diocesan bishops, along with a few suffragan or assistant bishops, make up the House of Bishops. The House also regularly meets separately from the Synod to discuss issues of episcopal ministry, mission and national issues affecting the Church of England.

More information from the House of Bishops

House of Clergy

Excluding bishops, all ordained members of the General Synod form the House of Clergy.

More information on the House of Clergy

House of Laity

The House of Laity consists of lay members from every diocese of the Church of England. Nearly all lay members of Synod are elected by deanery synods (or annual meetings of the chaplaincies, in the case of the Diocese in Europe) or are chosen by and from the lay members of religious communities.

More information about the House of Laity

The work of General Synod

[Find out more about the work of Synod, including Synod papers and documents](#)



Synod Commissions and Committees

Crucifix inside Derby Cathedral

Information about the various commissions and committees established by the General Synod.

[Learn more](#)

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Diocese of Derby

Elections and Appointments

The General Synod elects and appoints to a number of positions.

[Learn more](#)

The Synod Office

The General Synod is supported by staff of the National Church Institutions. The Synod Office is located at Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. The Church House switchboard number is 020 7898 1000.

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