

## GENERAL SYNOD

## DRAFT DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER (DEANERY SYNODS) SCHEME 2020

## Explanatory Notes

At the 141<sup>st</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod held on 12 October 2019 proposals for:

- new deanery arrangements in the Diocese of Manchester and consultation under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011; and
- the Deanery Synod Membership Scheme 2020

were presented.

The briefing paper “Fit for Mission” on new deanery arrangements proposed the reorganisation and reduction in the number of deaneries to focus on mission and growth by increasing the opportunities for joint working, sharing resources ,developing and supporting clergy and lay leadership at local level. The briefing paper also proposed the new role of a full time Area Dean for the reconfigured deaneries to facilitate and drive change.

The Deanery Synod Membership Scheme 2020 provided two options, firstly the current scheme which would preserve the existing ratio of laity and secondly an alternative scheme which if implemented would significantly reduce the number of laity. The Diocesan Synod approved the current scheme to ensure the adequate and fair representation of lay members.

The Diocesan Synod was aware that if the new deanery arrangements were implemented, approval to a Scheme of Variation under Rule 22 of the Church Representation Rules 2020 to permit two of the reconfigured deaneries in Bolton and Oldham and Ashton to exceed 150 members would be necessary and that such proposed Scheme of Variation would have to be laid before General Synod pursuant to Rule 25 of the Church Representation Rules.

That approval is now sought on the basis that the Scheme of Variation would best meet the special circumstances of the diocese as part of its “Fit for Mission” deanery arrangements and also secure better representation of the laity on the deanery synods.

Jane Monks  
Diocesan Registrar  
October 2020