

Forthcoming election to General Synod and other elections due to take place in 2015

The following elections are to be carried out during 2015.

Description	Term	Start of the electoral process	Date at which new members take office
Election to Diocesan Synod	3 years	May 2015	1 st August 2015
Election to the General Synod	5 years	July 2015	November 2015
Bishop's Diocesan Council	3 years	October 2015	January 2016
Diocesan Board of Education	3 years	October 2015	January 2016
Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committees	3 years	October 2015	January 2016
Vacancy in See Committee	3 years	October 2015	January 2016

Diocesan Synod

This election takes place under the Church Representation Rules (specifically CRR 31 and 32) and each deanery manages the electoral processes for its representatives to Diocesan Synod under the 'first-past-the-post' system. The Rural Dean is the Presiding Officer for the election to the House of Laity and the Lay Chair is the Presiding Officer for the election to the House of Clergy.

Candidates: Lay candidates are to be actual communicants, aged 16 or over and on a parochial electoral roll in the Diocese (or the Cathedral Community Roll). Clergy candidates are to be Clerks in Holy Orders and members of the Deanery Synod in question.

Electorate: Lay representatives are to be elected by the members of the House of Laity of the Deanery Synod in question (other than co-opted members). Clergy representatives are to be elected by the members of the House of Clergy of the Deanery Synod in question (other than co-opted members).

Timetable: The electoral process will commence in May and is to be concluded by 15th July.

General Synod

This election takes place under rules laid down by General Synod. The Presiding Officer will be the Diocesan Secretary and the election shall be run by the Synod Office according to the single transferable vote system.

Candidates: Lay candidates are to be actual communicants, aged 18 or over and on a parochial electoral roll in the Diocese (or the Cathedral Community Roll). Clergy candidates are to have been admitted to deacon's or priests orders and to be entitled to vote in the election, or would have been so entitled had they been members of a deanery synod.

Electorate: 4 lay representatives are to be elected by the members of the houses of laity of all the deanery synods in the Diocese (other than co-opted members and lay members of religious orders with separate representation arrangements).
4 proctors in convocation (clergy representatives) are to be elected by clerks in holy orders in the Diocese exercising the office of Assistant Bishop, Archdeacons, beneficed clerks in holy orders, clerks in holy orders holding office in the Cathedral, clerks in holy orders licensed under seal by the Bishop of the Diocese and clerks in holy orders who are members of a deanery synod in the Diocese and who have written permission to officiate from the Bishop.

A detailed timetable will be presented to the Bishop's Diocesan Council at its meeting on 12th May for its consideration.

Deanery Officers will be aware that there is a lot of work to do in preparation for the election. It is of critical importance that the Registers of Electors are as up to date and as accurate as possible. Under Church Representation Rule (CRR) 29 this is the responsibility of the Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer (Ed Moffatt). In practice, accurate registers can only be compiled with the active collaboration of the deanery synod secretary (or their designated substitute) during May and June and each deanery needs to consider well in advance which person will be responsible for this task and to communicate this to the Synod Office.

Additionally, CRR 48 (4) states: "Elections to fill casual vacancies shall, where possible, be held at such times as will enable all casual vacancies among representatives of the laity who are electors to be filled at the time of every election to the House of Laity of the General Synod, but no such election shall be invalid by reason of any casual vacancies not having been so filled." It is therefore recommended that, where possible, vacancies for parochial lay representatives on deanery synods should be filled clearly in advance of the start of the General Synod election process.

Deanery Synod officers will be contacted with further information by the Synod Office during March / April 2015.

Bishop's Diocesan Council

This is an election to three separate statutory and independent bodies: the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Board of Directors of the Diocesan Board of Finance. All three bodies have the same membership and meet at the same time under the title of the Bishop's Diocesan Council. The elections take place under the Standing Orders of the Diocesan Synod (specifically SOs 72-73 and 81-85) on a first-past-the-post basis and are run by the Synod Office.

Candidates: Any clerk in Holy Orders who is a member of the House of Clergy of the Diocesan Synod may stand for election to the Bishop's Diocesan Council, with each archdeaconry constituting a separate electoral area. Lay candidates must be members of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod and again each archdeaconry constitutes a separate electoral area. All candidates are to be nominated and seconded by qualified electors from the electoral area (archdeaconry) and house (clergy or laity) for which they are standing.

Electorate: Those entitled to vote are the members of the respective House of Diocesan Synod in a given archdeaconry as at the date on which the call for nominations is sent out.

Places: One clergy representative and two lay representatives are to be elected from each archdeaconry.

Timetable: The electoral process will commence in October 2015 and will conclude in November

Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committees

These elections will take place under the constitution and procedures of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee. They will be run by the Synod Office according to the first-past-the-post system.

- Candidates: Any clerk in Holy Orders who is a member of the House of Clergy of the Diocesan Synod may stand for election to their respective Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committee, with each archdeaconry constituting a separate electoral area. Lay candidates must be members of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod and again each archdeaconry constitutes a separate electoral area. All candidates are to be nominated and seconded by qualified electors from the electoral area and house for which they are standing.
- Electorate: Those entitled to vote are the members of the respective House of Diocesan Synod in a given archdeaconry as at the date on which the call for nominations is sent out.
- Places: One clergy representative and two lay representatives are to be elected from each archdeaconry.
- Timetable: This election will be held in parallel with the election to the Bishop's Diocesan Council.

Vacancy in See Committee

This Committee meets only if and when a new diocesan bishop is to be chosen. It has a number of ex officio members and the number of elected representatives is calculated to ensure that there is equal overall clergy and lay representation on the committee. The election takes place under the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 1993 (as last amended in 2013) and will be run by the Synod Office according to the single transferable vote system.

- Candidates: Clergy candidates are to be clerks in Holy Orders beneficed in or licensed to any parish in the Diocese. Lay candidates are to be actual communicants, aged over 16 and on a parochial electoral roll in the Diocese (or the Cathedral Community Roll).
- Electorate: The clergy representatives are elected by the House of Clergy of the Diocesan Synod, and the lay representatives are elected by the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod.
- Places: The numbers to be elected cannot be confirmed until the number of ex officio members has been determined (eg in respect of the numbers of lay and clergy members of General Synod).
- Timetable: This election will be held in parallel with the election to the Bishop's Diocesan Council.

Diocesan Board of Education

This election takes place under the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991 and it will be the first election for a full triennium since the inception of the new Exeter DBE constitution in 2013. It will be run by the Synod Office according to the first-past-the-post system.


- Candidates: Clergy candidates are to be clerks in Holy Orders beneficed or licensed in the Diocese. Lay candidates are to be actual communicants, aged over 16 and on a parochial electoral roll in the Diocese.
- Electorate: Those entitled to vote are the members of the Diocesan Synod, undifferentiated by House, as at the date on which the call for nominations is sent out.
- Places: 5 places according to the following categories:
- (i) one clerk in Holy Orders;
 - (ii) two lay persons;
 - (iii) two members of the Synod
- Timetable: This election will be held in parallel with the election to the Bishop's Diocesan Council.


Ed Moffatt

Appendix

Provisional timetable for elections to General Synod in 2015

The present General Synod will be dissolved when the Convocations are dissolved by Royal Writs. This is expected to be on or very shortly after Tuesday 14 July 2015 following the July group of sessions. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have therefore approved the following provisional timetable for the election of the new Synod:

 The 'nomination period' must not be less than **28 days**

 The 'voting period' must not be less than **21 days**

1	Notification to electors of the election timetable to be followed in the diocese and issue of nomination papers	Not later than Tuesday 21 July
2	Notification of the validity of any nomination	As soon as any nomination is received
3	Closing date for nominations	Friday 4 September
4	Issue of ballot papers	Friday 18 September
5	Closing date for return of ballot papers	Friday 9 October
6	Day of the Count	Monday 12, Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 or Thursday 15 October
7	Names and addresses of those elected and result sheet to be sent to the Clerk to the Synod and to the Elections Scrutineer	Not later than the fourth working day after the date of the declaration of the result