# Better Prepared! Better Represented!

Key facts in understanding Church of England Synodical Government

The Church of England operates at three interconnected levels:

**Deanery Synod** - comprising elected lay representatives of local churches within the deanery and the clergy of the deanery.

* **Elections will take place in the Spring of 2014** – during the Annual Parochial Church Meetings
* Each church will be informed of the number of elected members it may have by the end of 2013 following agreement by the Diocesan Synod - a balance of members has to be maintained between clergy and laity
* Only those on the Electoral Roll can vote or stand (so make sure you are on the newly revised list for your church!)
* You can get your name added at any time but you need to do it before the end of 2013. Ask your church Electoral Roll Officer for the form for you to fill and return to her/him saying you live in the parish or have worshipped there for the last six months. Only those on the electoral roll can stand for PCC, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod or General Synod.
* Extra places can be made for:
  + Clergy holding Permission to Officiate within the deanery
  + Co-opted members – up to three per house of clergy and laity
* Deanery Synod members each hold office for three years from 1 June 2014

**Diocesan Synod** – comprising elected lay and clergy members from across the deaneries along with senior diocesan clergy, co-opted and nominated members.

* **Next election Summer 2015** to serve from 1 August 2015 for three years
* Number of Lay members elected from their deaneries in proportion to size (of the deanery that is!)
* Lay members do not need to be members of Deanery synod but must be on the Electoral Roll of a church within the deanery
* The electorate is the respective Houses of the Deanery i.e. deanery clergy vote in clergy and deanery laity vote in lay members
* Membership of Diocesan Synod is helpful as it leads on to membership of Bishop’s Council, and other key Diocesan Boards and Councils

**General Synod** – comprising the Diocesan Bishop and elected members from both laity and clergy across the diocese.

* **Next election Summer 2015** to serve for five years
* London Diocese has 10 clergy members (or proctors) and 11 lay members
* Elected from across the diocese. Lay people standing must be on the electoral roll of a church within the diocese, you do not need to be a member of the Deanery or Diocesan Synods to stand (but it often helps to get you known)
* The electorate is the respective houses of clergy and laity on the deanery synods but this time voting as a whole across the diocese by house
* Voting is by Single Transferable vote – good for a number of people representing a similar constituency to stand as often it is the fourth and fifth... votes that make the difference
* Election addresses are allowed. If standing as a candidate make it clear where you stand in relation to women priests/bishops along with the main areas of interest that you have
* Watch out nearer the time for circulated lists of candidates and how they have voted in the past on key issues

**SO IN BRIEF!**

**2013 – Make sure that you and others are on the Electoral Roll of your local church**

**2014 – Stand for election by your church to the deanery synod – you will then be a voting member when it comes to the elections for:**

**General Synod and Diocesan Synod in Summer 2015**

**and consider standing yourself!**

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**An important advantage of being elected to diocesan synod is that you become ex-officio a member of your deanery synod and therefore an elector for General Synod.**

For fuller information follow the link to the Church Representation Rules online

www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/church-representation-rules/church-representation-rules-online.aspx

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Watch Parliamentary Task Force

April 2013