

2026 election of lay members

Each parish will elect lay members of deanery synods at their 2026 Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs). Members will serve a three year term from 2026 to 2029.

WHAT IS A DEANERY?

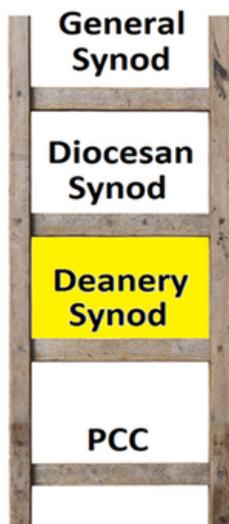
A deanery is a group of parishes forming a district. Within Coventry diocese we have 11 deaneries - Alcester, Coventry East, Coventry North, Coventry South, Fosse, Kenilworth, Nuneaton, Rugby, Shipston, Southam, and Warwick & Leamington.

WHAT IS A DEANERY SYNOD?

Deanery synod is the body of laity and clergy who represent the parishes within that deanery. Parish clergy are members of deanery synod, along with other clergy who may live or work in the deanery such as chaplains. Each parish elects lay members to join the deanery synod. The number of lay members from each parish is based on the number of names on the electoral roll.

Members of general synod and diocesan synod are also members of deanery synod.

HOW DO DEANERIES LINK WITH THE REST OF THE CHURCH?



Sometimes we use the term 'synodical ladder' to explain the governance structure of the Church of England. The rungs of the ladder are PCCs, deanery synods, diocesan synods and general synod.

Good communication is essential between all rungs of the ladder as we work towards our shared mission purpose of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Members are elected for three years, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029. Deanery synods meet at least twice a year. The meetings usually take place in the evening.

WHAT DO DEANERY SYNODS DO?

The purpose of a deanery synod is:

- To promote a collaborative approach to mission within the deanery
- To engage with diocesan synod, and act as a link between parishes and the diocese
- To facilitate mutual support amongst parishes, including the sharing of financial resources, knowledge and skills
- To discuss issues and ideas
- To share good news, to pray, worship and grow together

Members of deanery synod also have a vital role as the electorate in elections to diocesan synod and general synod. As a deanery synod member you will be able to nominate and vote for those you would like to represent you at a diocesan and national level. General synod elections will be happening in summer 2026.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN?

Lay members of deanery synod must be:

- At least 16 years old
- Actual communicants*
- On the electoral roll of the parish for at least six months

You do not need to be a PCC member or churchwarden, or have any particular skills, experience or qualifications. Once elected, deanery synod members also become PCC members.

HOW MANY MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED FROM MY PARISH?

The number of lay members is determined by the number on the electoral roll. Each parish will receive a notification from the diocesan office of the number of members to be elected, this will be between 1 and 6.

WHAT NEXT?

Deanery synod lay members will be elected at each parish's Annual Parochial Church Meeting in spring 2026. If you are interested in joining, please contact your incumbent, churchwardens or PCC secretary for further information and a nomination form.

* Actual communicant means a person who has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or a Church in communion with it at least three times during the preceding 12 months, and who is either confirmed or ready and desirous of being confirmed.