



General Synod Elections 2026: Stand for Synod

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It shapes and approves laws that affect the whole of the Church of England. It agrees 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.

In Autumn 2026, elections are happening for new General Synod members. Those elected will serve for five years and members are a mixture of bishops, clergy and lay people.

Almost anyone who attends church regularly is likely to be eligible to stand as a lay member. You don't need to be a member of a PCC, Deanery Synod or Diocesan Synod. We are looking for candidates who represent the whole range of people and churches in the Church of England. We particularly welcome candidates whose background may currently be underrepresented.

There is a supportive induction programme to help new members in their roles.

Why stand?

- Opportunity to represent the concerns of your community and your diocese at a national level.
- Have a say in national legislation that affects all parts of the Church of England.
- Raise issues and contribute to debates on social and policy matters.
- Can be enormously rewarding.
- Meet other Anglicans from across the country and the world.

What does a General Synod member do?

Members speak in debates, propose and vote on motions, serve on committees and review legislation.

Do you need special skills?

You will need to be able to show you are someone who listens with an open mind, who is able to reflect prayerfully on issues, and who is able to confidently contribute to discussions. We are looking for candidates who represent the whole range of people and churches in the Church of England.

You don't need any previous experience in making speeches. You don't need to be a member of a PCC, Deanery Synod or Diocesan Synod.

It doesn't matter if you don't know everything about how the Church operates or how General Synod works – people will help you with this if you do get elected.

What is the commitment?

If elected, you would be expected to attend each meeting of Synod for the next five years. It is possible to attend all General Synod meetings either in person or online. Each meeting lasts five days and there are usually two meetings per year, one in London and one in York. In your first year, you would also attend an additional three-day meeting in London.

Do I get paid for this?

The role is voluntary and unpaid. Members' travel and accommodation expenses are covered.

What are the next steps for those who are interested?

If you would like to stand as a lay member, use the eligibility checker at [Elections to Synod | The Church of England](#) as a guide, and then contact Philippa Pearson at elections@elydiocese.org at the Diocese of Ely or more information and to confirm your eligibility. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 7 September 2026. Further information is also available on the Diocesan website at [General Synod - Diocese of Ely](#)

If you don't wish to stand but know someone who you think should consider standing, please pass this information on to them.

General Synod Elections 2026 Timetable	
General Synod is dissolved marking the end of the current quinquennium	Tuesday 14 July
Invitations to nominate are issued	Friday 14 August 2026
Notification of the validity of any nomination	As soon as any nomination is received
Closing date for receipt of nominations Deadline for receipt of election addresses	Monday 7 September 2026
Invitations to vote are issued Voting period opens	Monday 21 September 2026
Voting period for voting by paper closes	Tuesday 13 October
Voting period for voting using elections portal closes	Tuesday 13 October 2026
Day of the count	Wednesday 14 October 2026
Declaration of result by 5pm	19 October 2026

Every blessing,



The Rt Rev'd Sarah Clark, Bishop of Ely

We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ