

Thinking of standing for **Deanery Synod**?

Read on to find out about the role!

A **Deanery Synod Member** occupies a unique position in the Church of England, serving as the vital "connective tissue" between the local parish and the wider Diocese.

When you are elected to the Deanery Synod, you automatically become a member of the **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**. This means you hold a dual role: helping lead your local church while representing its interests at a regional level.

Role Description: Deanery Synod Member

1. Purpose of the Role

The Deanery Synod acts as a bridge. Its purpose is to look beyond the boundaries of a single parish to the needs of the wider local area (the Deanery). You are there to bring parish concerns to the Deanery and to bring Deanery/Diocesan news and initiatives back to your parish.

2. Key Responsibilities

- **Representation:** Attend Deanery Synod meetings (usually 3 times per year) to represent the views of your parish and vote on deanery-wide matters.
- **Communication:** Report back to your PCC after every Synod meeting, ensuring that your local congregation understands wider Diocesan strategies and how they affect the parish.
- **Election of Higher Bodies:** You form the **electorate** for both the **Diocesan Synod** and the **General Synod**. This is one of your most influential duties—choosing the people who set national church policy.
- **Strategic Planning:** Participate in the development and implementation of the **Deanery Strategic Plan** (e.g., decisions on parish reorganisation, sharing resources, or mission projects).
- **Finance:** Vote on the Deanery's recommendations regarding the "Parish Share" (the money parishes contribute to the Diocese).

3. PCC & Trustee Duties

Because a Deanery Synod member is **ex officio** a member of their local PCC:

- You carry the same **Legal Trustee responsibilities** as any other PCC member (see PCC role description).
- You must act as a full participant in the governance, finance, and safeguarding oversight of your home parish.

4. Personal Qualities & Requirements

- **Eligibility:** Must be on the Parish Electoral Roll and over 16
- **An "Outward" Focus:** An interest in how the church functions beyond your own church.
- **Commitment:** Reliability in attending both PCC meetings and Deanery Synod meetings.

Why this role matters

While it might seem like "more meetings," the Deanery Synod member is often the first to hear about:

1. **Grant opportunities** for local mission projects.
2. **Legal changes** affecting churches.
3. **New training resources** provided by the Diocese.
4. **Voting for General Synod** General Synod elections are this year.

A note from Sarah (Vicar)

Thank you for considering standing for Deanery Synod. Please do this alongside reading the PCC role description as you will also be a PCC member. Being a Deanery Synod member brings with it a wider perspective and voice into how we operate as CofE churches across our area and the diocese. There are only 3 meetings a year, in addition to PCC meetings.

This year is a particularly important one for Deanery Synod as this year we will elect the next General Synod. This is the national body who makes many important decisions regarding the Church of England. Some of the more recently highly publicised ones have been around Safeguarding and the blessing of Same Sex Partnerships. You are only able to vote for those standing if you are on Deanery Synod. You can find out more on the Church of England's website, just search Deanery or General Synod.

Know that I am praying for you in your discernment

Sarah

PCC Meeting Dates May 2026 – May 2027

18th May 2026

15th June 2026

27th June 2026 PCC Away Day

20th July 2026

10th August 2026 (social)

21st September 2026

19th October 2026

16th November 2026

No meeting in December

18th January 2027

15th February 2027

15th March 2027

19th April 2027

17th May 2027

Deanery Synod Meeting Dates are TBC