

BACKGROUND

Deaneries are groups of parishes in a geographical area – the size of the area and the number of parishes varies widely.

Parish Clergy in the Deanery are called together by the Rural Dean for mutual support in the Deanery Chapter. All Licensed Clergy in the Deanery are automatically members of the Chapter and Deanery Synod.

Deanery Synods also have Lay Members, i.e. those who are not Clergy. Deanery Synods are formal meetings, which are mainly for information and discussion about mission and ministry in the area. Occasionally they are required to take formal decisions, sometimes by means of a vote. Every three years, Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) elect their Lay representatives to Deanery Synods. The next occasion is this year 2020. Crucially, the Lay representatives form the electorate for the House of Laity on the Diocesan and General Synod; the next elections for these take place in 2021 & 2020 respectively.

In all of these matters it is important to be clear about the distinction between Deaneries and Deanery Synods – Deaneries are much more than their Synods, although the Synod forms a focal point for the activity within the Deanery. Deaneries form an important bridge between parishes and the wider church, including the rest of the Diocese.

It's important that Synods reflect the breadth of views, ages, backgrounds and characteristics held at parish level and not consist solely of people with specific agendas to pursue.

THE ROLE OF APCMs

APCMs may select/elect up to eight Deanery Synod representatives, depending on the number of people in the congregation, so it is a question of looking for a range of qualities amongst a team of representatives. The list of qualities and attributes of effective Deanery Synod members shown on the previous page is offered so that, across the whole of the Synod, there are the skills, experience and enthusiasm to make change happen and move things forward.

Deanery Synod lay representatives are ex officio members of the PCC, so they will bring these skills to the PCC too.

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The Diocesan Office • The Palace • Hereford • HR4 9BL

t: 01432 373300 e: info@hereford.anglican.org

www.hereford.anglican.org



Inspiring *each* Generation



Deanery Synod Lay Representatives

an opportunity to serve the wider church



— Diocese of —
Hereford
Proclaiming Christ • Growing Disciples

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In Hereford Diocese our aim is to proclaim Christ and grow disciples. Our **shared priorities** are shared not only across Hereford diocese but with the wider Church of England:

Mission:

Growing Christian disciples of all ages and backgrounds - spiritually and numerically

Serving the common good – transforming lives and communities

Ministry for Mission

Reimagining, developing, and sharing ministry for mission in the 21st century

Resources for Mission

Shared commitment to: Focusing and growing our resources for mission – staff, time, money etc

This is set out in more detail in the Diocesan MAP and underlines the vital role that Deaneries have in the life of the Diocese.

To make this happen it is vital that the most suitable Lay people are elected onto Deanery Synods. Deaneries and Deanery Synods offer training opportunities and experience, where the skills of all can be developed and future leaders of the church identified, so it is important to look for future potential rather than just filling gaps.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Deanery Synods exist to serve the **witness and mission of the wider Church** and so need to be able to take strategic decisions to **advance mission and ministry in the Deanery and the Diocese.**
2. Deanery Synod meetings are concerned with seeking God's will for the mission of the Church in the Deanery and so they need to be **Christ-centered, prayerful and open to the Spirit** speaking through all.
3. It is important that the Deanery Synod, as any representative body, broadly reflects the **diversity** of all the congregations – in gender, ethnic origin, age, experience etc.

4. It is important for Annual Parochial Church Meetings/PCCs to think carefully and **pray hopefully** about who they choose, using principles of succession planning – including looking for the leaders of the future and playing to people's strengths and potential. Deaneries are entering a new phase and need fresh ideas.
5. It is important that Deanery Synod representatives are enthusiastic about the potential for changing the role and effectiveness of Deaneries and have the commitment and energy to attend and participate in the meetings and be active between them.

Some Deaneries, such as Abbeydore are calling this a gathering .

AS A LAY REPRESENTATIVE DO YOU HAVE OR COULD YOU DEVELOP SOME OF THE FOLLOWING QUALITIES?

- A vision and passion for the wider church to flourish
- Committed to work with others in prayer, listening and study to seek God's will for mission in the Deanery
- Able to think and act strategically – able to see the role of your own parish within the bigger picture and understand and accept differences of view
- Committed to mission, growth and engagement across boundaries
- Open to new/different approaches and willing to listen to and learn from others, share ideas and experience and embrace change
- Able to speak confidently and challenge in a respectful way
- Able to provide inspiring feedback to your PCC/congregation
- Committed, reliable and able to see things through
- Dynamic and energetic and able to lead others to shape the future