



Key dates



Deaneries to elect Synod members:	completed by 15 July 2024
DS Member induction (Woolwich):	Saturday 21 September 2024
DS Member induction (Croydon):	Wednesday 2 October 2024
DS Member induction (Kingston):	Wednesday 9 October 2024
First meeting of the new Synod:	Saturday 16 November 2024

The agenda for 2024–2027

Diocesan Synod members will be elected in the summer of 2024 and serve a term of three years. Three meetings are held a year – two Saturdays and one weekday evening. Themes for the next three years will include clergy well-being in times of change, environment (including net zero carbon), continuing implementation of the *Anti-Racism Charter*, and parish finances for growth in post-pandemic recovery.

What next?

If you feel called to become one of your Deanery's representatives on Diocesan Synod, talk to your current representatives, Deanery Lay Chair, Vicar or Area Dean or contact charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org ahead of the next elections, which must be completed by **15 July 2024** at your Deanery Synod.

Vasantha Gnanadoss, Diocesan Synod member

"It is good to stand for election to Diocesan Synod. The three meetings a year give the chance to make friends with people from all around our diverse diocese and to work with them to make things better here in Southwark and in the Church of England."



The Diocese of Southwark

Be the change

Is God calling you to serve on Diocesan Synod?

Christ centred
Outward focused



What is our Vision?

Southwark Vision 2024–2035 is Christ Centred, Outward Focused. It is founded on mutual commitment, speaking well of one another and walking together in the pilgrimage of faith.

In November 2023, our Diocesan Synod approved this vision – alongside plans to develop an investment programme which will resource and support work around six priorities:

- Valuing all our parishes
- Maintaining the highest number of stipendiary clergy & growing lay ministries
- Growing our churches & establishing new worshipping communities
- Becoming younger and more diverse
- Deepening our discipleship
- Seeking God's healing for our world

Find out more about Southwark Vision at southwark.anglican.org/southwark-vision

What is Diocesan Synod?

Diocesan Synod is a governance body made up of elected representatives from across our diocese. It is responsible for holding our Diocesan vision and mission, it sets strategy, elects and appoints people to boards and committees and shapes our priorities. It's a statutory institution which serves not only our Diocese but influences and helps to direct the National Church on matters of Church, public and Government policy. It also plays a crucial role in accountability and is the body that scrutinises and approves our annual Diocesan budget.

The membership consists of three Houses: Bishops, Clergy and Laity – which all come together to lead our Diocese, enable mission and serve the people of God. Find out more about Diocesan Synod here at southwark.anglican.org/diocesan-synod

What can I offer?

Southwark Diocese is one of the largest Dioceses in the Church of England, serving the people of South London and East Surrey. We are a diverse and vibrant Diocese that takes joy in the distinctiveness and variety of God's gifts and people – and we'd love our Diocesan Synod to reflect that diversity. We welcome and encourage members from a wide range of church traditions, age and experience and we want to ensure that we represent the communities that we serve. As we continue to implement our Diocesan Anti Racism Charter, we're particularly seeking to increase representation of United Kingdom Minority Ethnic/Global Majority Heritage (UKME/GMH) peoples as Synod members.

We're particularly looking for people who have:

Vision: do you have a vision for a flourishing Church and a passion to work with others to share your Christian faith and deepen the discipleship of those around you?

Commitment: are you ready to seek God's will through prayer and theological reflection, with a heart for the growth of God's kingdom?

Openness: are you open to trying new approaches, learning from others and embracing difference? Will you share what you learn and hear with others in your deanery and beyond?

Enthusiasm: members of Synod are encouraged to speak and challenge confidently and respectfully, enabling change whilst leading and encouraging others.

Communication: are you receptive and open-minded and do you have the ability to share your passion? Members of Synod are ambassadors – both amongst themselves and as a bridge between our Diocese and parishes.

Do you have – or could you develop – some of these qualities to serve our Diocese? If so, please consider standing as your deanery's representative on Diocesan Synod.

The Revd Lotwina Farodoye, Chair of the House of Clergy

"I'm an avid believer in the phrase 'Be the change you want to see!' Being an active participant in decision making for the good of the whole is important to me and that is why I am a member of Diocesan Synod, our collective decision making body for the good of our Diocese and Christendom at large. It is a place where laity and clergy enjoy working together as partners in the Gospel and if this sounds of interest to you, I wholeheartedly encourage you stand for election".

