

Role Description: Members of the Synods

We long to be a people who are, 'All for Jesus' because he is Lord of All and gave his All for us.

Role:

Lay Member of the Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod or General Synod.

Nb. All members of the Synods are also *ex officio*¹ members of All Souls, Langham Place Parochial Church Council. Members of General Synod are also *ex officio* members of Diocesan Synod.

Accountable to:

Charity Commission and, as an elected role, you are also accountable to the electorate for that role (see below as the electorate is different for different roles).

Person:

To be eligible to stand for election for any of the Synods or Councils, candidates must:

- Be 16 years old (18 for General Synod candidates) or above;
- Have been on the electoral roll of the parish of All Souls, Langham Place for at least 6 months; and
- Be a communicant² at the church.

There are no legal obligations beyond that but we ask that people who stand for election from All Souls are committed to:

- All Souls Church's Vision, Values and Mission;
- Working with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; and
- Adhering to the Code of Ethics for Those In Ministry and Senior Leadership within All Souls Church.

You don't need any particular expertise - the most important qualification of serving on Synod is that you love the Lord, his Word and his people.

How people are elected to the Synods:

¹ *Ex officio* means to be a member of a body by virtue of holding another office. The term 'ex officio' is Latin, meaning literally 'from the office'.

² A "communicant" is a person who has received Communion at least three times during the twelve months before the election and whose name is on the Electoral Roll. For full details see the [Church Representation Rules](#).

Deanery Synod: Members of the All Souls church family on the electoral roll elect members to the Deanery Synod at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) every three years. The number of seats that we have on the Synod is determined by the number of church members on the electoral roll. All Souls, Langham Place is part of the St Marylebone Deanery.

Diocesan Synod: Candidates must be nominated and seconded by someone who is on the electoral roll of St Marylebone Deanery, of which All Souls, Langham Place is a part. St Marylebone Deanery has three elected lay places on Diocesan Synod and the electorate are the members of St Marylebone Deanery.

General Synod: Candidates must be nominated and seconded by someone who is on the Deanery Synod. The electorate for General Synod members from London Diocese is the Diocese's deanery members.

Elections to the Diocesan and Deanery Synod happen every three years, while elections to General Synod take place every five years - 2026/2031/2036, etc. Members can stand for additional terms of office. There is no limit in the number of terms a synod member can stand.

Anyone interested in standing for any of the Synods should email the [Church Council Secretary](#).

What do the Synods do?

Deanery Synod: Deaneries are small geographical divisions of the Diocese, within which parishes are grouped under the care of an Area Dean. Each deanery is governed by a deanery synod.

The role of the deanery synods can be read more fully [here](#) and includes:

- promoting in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- considering matters concerning the Church of England, including in the context of their deanery;
- fostering a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes in the deanery;
- considering the business of the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod, and to sound parochial opinion;
- raising matters with the Diocesan Synod as appropriate.

The deanery synod serves as an electoral college to various bodies, including the General Synod, Diocesan Synod and Area Councils. It also appoints church governors to deanery schools and discusses matters of common interest.

Diocesan Synod: The Diocesan Synod is the body of representatives of the clergy and lay people in the Diocese, which meets together with the bishops, archdeacons and other senior post holders in the Diocese to discuss matters of concern to the Diocese of London, and to make provision for those things that require some form of action or statement. The Bishop of London will also consult the Synod about matters when appropriate.



The Synod has a role in representing the views of the Diocese of London to the General Synod and wider national Church.

The Synod receives the accounts of the Diocesan administrative body, the London Diocesan Fund, and approves the total amount of Common Fund to be collected each year.

More information on the Diocesan Synod can be read [here](#).

General Synod: The General Synod is the legislative body of the Church of England, or its “parliament”. Members of the General Synod have a say in national legislation that affects all parts of the Church of England. They can also raise issues and contribute to debates on social and policy matters. It also approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

Fuller information on the General Synod can be read [here](#).

All of the Synods include clergy and laity and the Diocesan Synod has a distinct group of *ex officio* senior clergy, bishops and archdeacons.

Detail of the roles:

1. The Deanery Synod meets 3 or 4 times a year in an evening; the Diocesan Synod meets 3 times a year in an evening; and the General Synod usually meets twice a year for 2-3 days, either in London or York. There are papers to be read ahead of each meeting, which can vary in volume.
2. Members of All Souls, Langham Place who sit on the synods are also members of All Souls PCC, and the role description for PCC members should be read in conjunction with this role description.

Safe Recruitment:

All PCC members must complete the Safeguarding Basic Awareness training as well as Foundations and Domestic Abuse training which can be found on the [Church of England Safeguarding Portal](#). Instructions on completing the training will be provided during the induction process.

All Souls Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse to report it immediately.

Safe Recruitment checklist for these roles:

1. Enhanced DBS Check will be performed
2. You will receive a Role Description
3. Safeguarding Online Training courses
4. Please look at the [Code of Safer Work](#) practice

For more information, contact pccsecretary@allsouls.org



Safeguarding Questionnaire/Reminder:

- **Who will you talk to if you observe or are told about child or adult safeguarding concerns?**

Name: Louise Cathrow

Contact: Safeguarding.officer@allsouls.org

- **Who is your Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser?**

Name: Claire Meaney

- Contact: Claire.meaney@london.anglican.org

