

Elections to the General Synod 2026

Qualifications of Clergy and Lay Electors and Candidates

Clergy Electors

The clerical electors in each diocese are as follows

- assistant bishops in the diocese;
- archdeacons of the diocese;
- beneficed clergy of the diocese;
- clergy holding office in a cathedral in the diocese (including residentiary canons and other cathedral clergy who are appointed to work at the cathedral but not non-residentiary/honorary canons);
- clergy licensed under seal by the diocesan bishop (including any clergy resident outside the diocese but holding the licence of the bishop of that diocese);
- and clergy with permission to officiate in the diocese who are members of a deanery synod in the diocese (including clergy retired from full-time ministry and not licensed under seal).

The following are not clerical electors

- the members of the house of bishops of the diocesan synod;
- the dean of the cathedral of the diocese;
- all Forces chaplains who participate in the election of representatives held by the Armed Forces Synod;
- clergy who have opted to vote in the universities and TEs constituency;
- and members of the religious communities.

Lay Electors

The lay electors in each diocese are the members of the house of laity of each deanery synod in the diocese at 6.00 a.m. on the date of dissolution of the General Synod, due on 14th July 2026. They do not include anyone co-opted to the house of laity of a deanery synod or lay members of a religious community.

Clergy Candidates

To be eligible to stand for election as clergy in a diocese or other electoral area, a person must have been ordained priest or deacon but must not be in episcopal orders and must be in one of the following categories.

- A person who is a qualified elector in the diocese;

- A person who has written permission from the bishop to officiate in the diocese and who would be a qualified elector in the diocese if the person was a member of a deanery synod in the diocese;
- A person qualified to vote in the universities and TEIs constituency and who would be a qualified elector in the diocese but for being qualified to vote in the universities and TEIs constituency, and is beneficed in, or licensed to, a parish in the diocese or is licensed to serve as a vicar in a team ministry in a benefice in the diocese, and has chosen to stand in the diocese rather than in the universities and TEIs constituency.

Lay Candidates

To be eligible to stand for election to the House of Laity of the General Synod, a person must meet each of the following conditions

- The person has received Holy Communion in accordance with the practice of the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, at least three times in the twelve months before the date of the dissolution of the General Synod.
- The person is confirmed (or ready and willing to be) or is a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.
- The person is aged 18 or over on the date of the dissolution of the General Synod.

A candidate for the House of Laity must also meet one of the following conditions:

- The person's name is on the electoral roll of a parish in the diocese or, if not, is on the community roll of the cathedral church of the diocese, or
- The leader of a mission initiative in the diocese has declared the person to be part of the worshipping community involved in the mission initiative.