

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

ELECTION OF BISHOP'S COUNCIL 2025-2027

The Bishop's Council is the Standing Committee for the Diocesan Synod, advises the Bishop and helps to form policy for the diocese. It provides oversight of the diocesan strategy and aligns resources, both financial and people, to ensure the strategy is fulfilled. The Guildford Diocesan Board of Finance is both a charity and a company limited by guarantee. The Bishop's Council members are the trustees of the charity and the directors of the company (they will also become ex-officio members of the company if they are not already members of Diocesan Synod). In addition, they sit as the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Parsonage Board. It is expected that the Council will meet up to nine times per year plus a Saturday away-day. Meetings (except the away-day) will normally be from 5.30 – 7.30pm (but new members will be consulted on meeting times). The new Council will take office on 1st January 2025 and remain in post until 31st December 2027.

The dates for 2025 are:

Monday 20 January	Monday 3 March	Monday 7 April
Saturday 17 May (<i>away-Day</i>)	Monday 19 May (<i>additional meeting</i>)	Monday 9 June
Monday 7 July	Monday 15 September	Monday 13 October
Monday 24 November	Monday 8 December (<i>additional meeting only if required</i>)	

According to Synod standing orders, the Bishop's Council shall consist of:

Ex-officio members

- The Bishop of Guildford
- The Archdeacon of Surrey
- The Archdeacon of Dorking
- The Chair of the Board of Finance

Elected members

- The Chair of the House of Clergy of Diocesan Synod (Vice-President) (to be elected 23rd November)
- The Chair of the House of Laity of Diocesan Synod (Vice-President) (to be elected 23rd November)
- 4 ordained persons having the Bishop's licence
- 6 lay persons on the electoral roll of a parish in the diocese or declared by the Dean to be a habitual worshipper at the Cathedral

Elected members must not be disqualified from serving as a company director or charity trustee.

Co-options

- The Council may co-opt up to 4 additional members

Nominations

- The Bishop may nominate up to four additional members, two of which should be the Suffragan Bishop of Dorking and the Dean of Guildford Cathedral.¹

¹ Please note that the proposed Articles of Association to be agreed at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Board of Finance on 23rd November 2024 will amend this to the Suffragan Bishop of Dorking and the Dean of Guildford Cathedral to become ex officio members leaving the Bishop to nominate two additional members if desired.

The Diocesan Synod, therefore, needs to elect 4 clergy and 6 lay members. Synod Standing Orders require that clergy and lay candidates are elected by their respective Houses.

Each nomination must be proposed and seconded by members of Diocesan Synod **from the same House as the candidate**, and all three must complete and sign the relevant form (i.e. the candidate must complete, sign and return the candidate form, the proposer must complete, sign and return the proposer form and the seconder must complete, sign and return the seconder form).

Please note if the proposer or seconder changes after the candidate form has been submitted, the candidate form will need to be updated with the new details and resubmitted by the candidate.

Nomination and supporting papers must be received by the Presiding Officer at synod@cofeguildford.org.uk so as to arrive not later than **12 noon on Monday 25th November 2024.**

If there are more candidates than places for any election, a ballot will be held. Voting papers will be emailed to all members of the relevant House of Diocesan Synod, who are the electors.

Disclosure and Barring Service

Each successful candidate will be required to undertake a DBS check and will be contacted following the election to advise how the process will take place.