**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD**

**ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE OF LAITY 2024**

**Introduction:**

Under the Standing Orders of the Guildford Diocesan Synod, the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod is required to elect a new Chair for the next Triennium. The successful candidate will take up office on 23rd November 2024 and hold it for the next three years (until a successor is appointed).

Elections will take place at a special meeting of the House of Laity to be held on **23rd November 2024** prior to the meeting of the Diocesan Synod. The meeting will be chaired by a member of the House appointed by Bishop Andrew.

Any member of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod may stand in the election which will be decided by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the result will be decided by lot.

**Responsibilities:**

The role of Chair carries a range of responsibilities and duties.

As well as sharing the chairmanship of Diocesan Synod with the Chair of the House of Clergy and the Diocesan Bishop (3 meetings a year), the successful candidate will become an ex-officio member of the Bishop’s Council (usually 9 meetings a year) and the Business Planning Group (3 meetings a year). The Chair will also be a member of the Vacancy in See Committee and may also be required to attend or sit on other Synodical Committees, Working Parties and events.

The Chair needs to act as a conduit of communication, ensuring concerns, and queries of the Laity are fed in to appropriate discussions, whilst at the same time feeding back policy and strategy decisions to colleagues.

**Skills and Qualities:**

* Ability to consider issues in an objective and strategic manner, weighing local and individual concerns against the wider needs of the Diocese and Church;
* Excellent communication skills and ability to present proposals, lead discussions, and engage in complex and potentially divisive issues;
* A willingness to represent all members of the Laity in equal measure.

**If you are willing to serve the House of Laity as its Chair, please complete the ‘Willingness to Serve’ form below and return it to the Presiding Officer by email to** [**synod@cofeguildford.org.uk**](mailto:synod@cofeguildford.org.uk) **no later than 12 noon on Thursday 14th November 2024. If more than one candidate stands, elections will be held at the meeting on 23rd November.**

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**WILLINGNESS TO SERVE FORM**

If you would like to stand for election, please complete the form below and return it to the Presiding Officer (details below)

**Name:**

**Deanery:**

I confirm that I meet the qualifications for candidates and consent to stand:

**Signed: Date:**

**Supporting Statement:**

*If you so wish, please use the space below to offer a short supporting statement (no more than 100 words) If there is more than one candidate, these will be compiled and distributed to all members on the 23rd November.*

Please note – if an election is required, all candidates will be given no more than **3 minutes** to address the House of Laity at the meeting on 23rd November 2024.

**Please return this form to the Presiding Officer no later than**

**noon on Thursday 14th November 2024**

[**synod@cofeguildford.org.uk**](mailto:synod@cofeguildford.org.uk)