**THE DIOCESE OF GUILDFORD**

**BY-ELECTION OF ONE CLERGY MEMBER TO SERVE ON GENERAL SYNOD (2025)**

**NOTICE BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER**

The by-election of ONE person to represent the Clergy of the Diocese on General Synod is required and qualified clergy members of Deanery Synods are now invited to nominate candidates.

The term of office begins when the by-election count has been concluded on 20th May 2025 and ends following the next General Election in mid October 2026.

**NOMINATIONS**

Nominations, completed and indicating the candidate’s willingness to serve, must reach the Presiding Officer not later than **12 noon on Monday 7th April 2025.** Nominations are to be submitted online via the Civica Election Services (CES) Portal and will be acknowledged by the Presiding Officer on receipt.

Each candidate must give their full name, address and year of birth, together with details of church membership and any previous service on General Synod.

**ELECTION ADDRESSES**

Information on the right of candidates to have an election address circulated by the presiding officer can be found below.

**HUSTINGS**

Details of hustings will be available on the diocesan website at [General Synod Elections - Diocese of Guildford](https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/general-synod-elections)

**VOTING**

If more than one candidate is nominated, an election will be held and voting will be by Single Transferable Vote (STV). Details of how to vote will be sent by email to each Elector. Voting will be via the CES Portal from **Monday 28th April 2025** and must be completed by **12 noon on Monday 19th May 2025.** The count will take place online within 24 hours of the vote closing and candidates will be informed of the result as soon as possible.

Formal notification will be sent to all candidates after nominations close regarding the count.

**GENERAL SYNOD WORK AND EXPENSES**

Information on the work of General Synod can be found on the Church of England website at [General Synod | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod)

The diocese will reimburse your travel and subsistence expenses up to a nominated amount at London Synods. For York Synods, accommodation and meals are provided on the campus of York University where Synod meets each July. Synod members may claim expenses for travel to York Synods.

**Kate Darwent**

**Presiding Officer and Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer**

10th March 2025

**Election addresses**

Extract from The House of Clergy Election Rules 2020

8. (1) If a candidate requests the presiding officer, s/he must make available to every elector election addresses provided by candidates.

(2) If a candidate submits an election address prepared at his or her own expense to the presiding officer, the presiding officer must ensure that a copy of the election address is available by means of the elections portal, is posted on the diocese’s website, and is sent by post to each person entitled to vote in the election who has not provided an email address.

(3) An election address must be on not more than two sides of A4 paper or If it is in electronic form, be capable of being printed in easily legible form on not more than two sides of A4 paper.

(4) Any election address must be submitted by **12 noon on Monday 14th April 2025**.

(5) The presiding officer is under no obligation to circulate any addresses received after this date.

(6) Invitations to vote and a copy of each address will be made available by means of the online portal, the diocesan website and by post to those who have not provided an email address.

(7) Failure to post a copy of an election address on the diocesan website will not invalidate the election.

9. The presiding officer must ensure that during the election period no literature, which in the opinion of the presiding officer, is likely to prejudice the election is circulated to the electors, or is distributed at a meeting of the diocesan synod or any deanery synod in the diocese, by or under the authority of the presiding officer or the diocesan synod. The Area Dean, Deanery Lay Chair and Deanery Synod Secretary must each seek to ensure that during the election no literature likely to prejudice the election forms part of an official circulation or is distributed at a meeting of the deanery synod.