

**ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD**

**13 MARCH 2021**

**SCHEME FOR REPRESENTATION FOR CATHEDRAL  
CLERGY ON ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD**

**Briefing note from the Diocesan Registry**

In 2020, the newest edition of the Church Representation Rules came into force. Rule 23 of the Church Representation Rules now requires each diocesan synod to make a scheme setting out how the Cathedral(s) of the diocese will be represented in the deanery synod system.

In the case of the Diocese of St Albans, diocesan synod is only required to provide for representation of the clergy community at the Cathedral. This is because St Albans Abbey is a parish church within the Deanery of St Albans. Like other parishes in that deanery, the Cathedral parish maintains an electoral roll and appoints lay representatives to the St Albans deanery synod at its APCM.

In practice, as clergy beneficed or licensed in St Albans deanery, Cathedral ministers have participated in deanery synod. However, diocesan synod is now required to formalise this arrangement.

The intention in the new rules is that deans and residentiary canons should hold their positions on deanery synod by virtue of a scheme under rule 23. Other clergy, not holding residentiary canonries, will still be entitled to sit on Deanery Synod if they are licensed to the Cathedral parish.

The proposed scheme, on which the Cathedral has been consulted, provides that the Dean and the two canons funded by the Church Commissioners (currently designated as Sub-dean and Canon Chancellor) should be members of the St Albans deanery synod. They act as representatives of the clerical community at the Cathedral. The scheme does not provide for the two 'diocesan canons' (currently the Director of Mission and Ministry and the Director of Vocations) to be members of that synod.

The Cathedral has a further three regular ministers: a precentor, a youth chaplain and an assistant curate. The authorisation for their ministry derives from their licence from the Bishop and not the authorisation inherent in being a residentiary canon. Therefore, they qualify for membership of the deanery synod by virtue of being licensed clergy in a parish in the deanery. The scheme makes clear that it does not intend to override this.

The overall effect, therefore, is that the house of clergy of the St Albans deanery synod will include the Dean, the Sub-dean and the Canon Chancellor (by virtue of the scheme) and the youth chaplain and precentor (by virtue of being licensed clergy in the parish). It will not include the two diocesan canons, unless they also qualify by another means.

**Jon Baldwin**  
**Deputy Registrar**

**SCHEME FOR REPRESENTATION FOR CATHEDRAL CLERGY  
ON ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD**

The diocesan synod of the Diocese of St Albans makes the following **SCHEME** pursuant to rule 23 of the Church Representation Rules:

**1 Representation of Cathedral clergy on St Albans deanery synod**

1.1 The following persons shall by virtue of this scheme be members of the house of clergy of the deanery synod for the deanery of St Albans:

1.1.1 the dean of the Cathedral; and

1.1.2 those residentiary canons of the Cathedral as are engaged exclusively on cathedral duties within the meaning of section 8 of the Cathedrals Measure 1999 (or any successor provision from time to time).<sup>1 2</sup>

1.2 The appointments made by paragraph 1.1 above shall be by way of representation of the dean, the residentiary canons and the other ministers of the Cathedral for the purpose of rule 23(1)(a) of the Church Representation Rules.

1.3 In the event of a vacancy in any of the offices listed in paragraph 1.1 above, a person shall not qualify for membership of the deanery synod merely because that person is performing the duties of that office on an acting basis.

1.4 No other person shall by virtue of this scheme be members of a deanery synod, but this shall not affect the membership of any person otherwise than by virtue of this scheme.

1.5 In particular, this scheme shall not affect the right of any clerk in Holy Orders (not being a residentiary canon or honorary canon) holding the Bishop's licence to minister in the Cathedral Parish to membership of the deanery synod by virtue of rule 15(1)(a) of the Church Representation Rules.<sup>3</sup>

**2 Representation of Cathedral laity on St Albans deanery synod**

2.1 Nothing in this scheme affects the appointment of persons from the Cathedral Parish to the house of laity of the deanery synod of the deanery of St Albans, which shall continue to be made pursuant to rules 16 and 19 of the Church Representation Rules.

**3 Definitions**

3.1 In this scheme:

**Cathedral** means the Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban; and

**Cathedral Parish** means the Abbey Parish of St Albans.

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<sup>1</sup> At the date of this scheme, the residentiary canons engaged exclusively on cathedral duties are the Sub-dean and the Canon Chancellor. This scheme does not make provision for the two 'diocesan canons' to be appointed to the St Albans deanery synod.

<sup>2</sup> At the date of this scheme, a draft Cathedrals Measure is awaiting Royal Assent. Section 14 of the draft Measure makes provision which re-enacts and succeeds section 8 of the 1999 Measure. This is not expected to lead to a change in the definition for this purpose.

<sup>3</sup> At the date of this scheme, the Minor Canon (Young People), the Minor Canon (Precentor) and the Assistant Curate qualify for membership of the St Albans deanery synod by virtue of this rule.