

Diocese of St Albans
General Synod Elections 2021

The postponed General Synod elections will take place over the coming months. The 2015-2021 General Synod was dissolved on 12 July 2021, triggering the election process. Only those clergy and laity who remain qualified at 6.00 am on 12 July will be entitled to vote.

A full timetable for elections within the Diocese of St Albans is below.

Dissolution of General Synod / finalisation date for electorate	6.00 am on 12 July
Nominations invited from	Friday 23 July
Closing date for nominations	12 noon on Wednesday 1 September
Deadline for submission of written election addresses	12 noon on Wednesday 8 September
Voting opens	Friday 17 September
Hustings – Laity	Monday 20 September
Hustings – Clergy	Tuesday 21 September
Voting closes	Friday 8 October
Count	11, 12, 13 or 14 October (tbc)

1. How to nominate or vote

For the first time, the election process (both making nominations and casting votes) will be conducted largely online via an election portal. Those who have not provided an email address through their parish electoral roll or deanery synod roll may still submit a nomination or a vote on paper.

Information setting out how to submit a nomination will be sent to you by email / post (as relevant) on or after 23 July. Please note that each nomination must also have a proposer and a seconder (see paragraphs 2.3 and 2.8 below).

Please note that no one may vote or stand as a candidate in more than one diocese/electoral area.

2. Who can be nominated for election?

Clergy candidates

2.1 A proctorial candidate must be an ordained priest or deacon who is one of the following:

- (a) a qualified elector (as described in paragraphs 3.1 below) in the diocese (excluding all assistant bishops);
- (b) a person who would be a qualified elector (see paragraphs 3.1) if he or she had been a member of a deanery synod in the diocese (i.e. a priest or deacon holding written permission from the bishop to officiate within the diocese);

2.2 A candidate must **not** be the holder of a paid office or employment to which one of the

following central bodies may make or confirm an appointment:

the General Synod	the Church Commissioners*
the Convocations	the Church of England Pensions
Board the Archbishops' Council	the Corporation of the Church House

*(A Church Commissioner in receipt of a salary or other emolument is **not** so disqualified.)

- 2.3 **Proposers** and **seconders** must be electors qualified (see paragraphs 3.1) as such at 6.00 a.m. on Monday 12 July 2021 (the date of dissolution of the 2015-2021 Convocations and thus of General Synod).

Lay candidates

- 2.4 A candidate must be a lay person who:

- (a) has received Communion according to the use 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 on 12 July 2021 (**or would have done so but for matters connected with coronavirus**); and
- (b) is either confirmed (or ready and desirous of being confirmed) or comes within paragraph 1(b) of Canon B 15A (i.e. is a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity); and
- (c) is aged at least 18 on the date of the dissolution of the General Synod; and
- (d) satisfies one of the following conditions:
 - (i) is on the church electoral roll of a parish in the diocese;
 - (ii) is declared by the leader of a mission initiative in the diocese within the 2 months beginning one month before 12 July 2021 to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative.

- 2.5 Unlike electors, candidates need not be members of a deanery synod.

- 2.6 Candidates must normally be qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on Monday 12 July 2021 (the date of the dissolution of the 2015-2021 General Synod).

- 2.7 A candidate must **not** be the holder of a paid office or employment to which one of the following central bodies may make or confirm an appointment:

the General Synod	the Church Commissioners*
the Convocations	the Church of England Pensions
Board the Archbishops' Council	the Corporation of the Church House

*(A Church Commissioner in receipt of a salary or other emolument is **not** so disqualified.)

- 2.8 **Proposers** and **seconders** must be diocesan electors (see paragraph 3.3 below) qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on the date of the dissolution, Monday 12 July 2021.

3. Who can vote in the election?

Clergy electors

- 3.1 A bishop, priest or deacon is a qualified elector (**subject to the exceptions in paragraph 3.2 below**) if in one of the following categories:

- (a) assistant bishops in the diocese (but **not** members of the house of bishops of the diocesan synod);
- (b) archdeacons of the diocese;

- (c) beneficed clergy of the diocese;
- (d) clergy holding office in a cathedral in the diocese;
- (e) clergy licensed under seal by the bishop of the diocese (including any clergy resident outside the diocese but holding a licence of the bishop of that diocese);
- (f) clergy with permission to officiate who are members of a deanery synod of the diocese.

3.2 The following are **not** qualified electors:

- (a) bishops who are members of the house of bishops of the diocesan synod;
- (b) the dean of the cathedral;
- (c) all Forces chaplains;
- (d) the Chaplain-General of Prisons; and
- (e) members of religious communities.

Lay electors

3.3 The diocesan electors are the members of the houses of laity of all the deanery synods in the diocese, other than co-opted members and the members of a religious community with representation in the General Synod.

4. When can nominations be made?

Invitations to nominate will be sent to the electorate on or after 23 July, which is the first day from which nominations are invited. Nominations must be made by 12 noon on 1 September.

5. What is involved in the nomination process?

Nominated candidates will have two optional opportunities to engage with the electorate:

- (i) By submitting a written electoral address electronically (by 12 noon on 8 September)

There is no required format, but it will be limited to two A4 pages in length (ie on both sides of a single sheet) in a legible font. It can include a photograph of the candidate. The content is a matter for each candidate but material which is, on the advice of the presiding officer, defamatory or unlawful will not be permitted.

The electoral address will be posted on the online elections portal and on the diocesan website. Hard copies will be printed in black and white and posted to those who have not provided an email address.

- (ii) By taking part in the hustings to be held via Zoom on Monday 20 September (House of Laity) and Tuesday 21 September (House of Clergy)

There will be **no obligation** for any candidate to provide or participate in either or both of these opportunities. If a candidate does not wish to do so, words similar to “no information provided” will simply be listed beside the candidate’s name.

6. When will voting take place?

Voting invitations will be issued (with instructions on how votes can be cast) on 17 September. Electors may wish to have the benefit of attending the online hustings before casting votes. Voting will close on 8 October.

Susan Pope
Presiding Officer
19 July 2021