

What is the General Synod and what does it do?

General Synod is the legislative body of the Church of England. Together with the Westminster Parliament, it is the only body in the land which is entitled to make national law for England.

Legislative Measures passed by the Church of England are signed off by the Queen as Head of State. In addition to legislation, the General Synod also agrees the national Budget for the Church of England and debates a wide range of public and social issues from the perspective of a faith organisation.

Why stand?

This is an opportunity to represent the concerns of your community and your diocese at a national level. You can have a say in national legislation that affects all parts of the Church of England. You can also raise issues and contribute to debates on social and policy matters.

Who can stand?

Any member of clergy who holds ecclesiastical office in the Diocese or Cathedral or who has permission to officiate can stand in an election to the House of Clergy for the Diocese. Clergy representatives (known as "Proctors") are elected by their peers, ie other clergy persons in the Diocese.

Time commitment and expectations?

General Synod usually meets twice a year for 5 days each in London and in York. Each synodical term (known as a "Quinquennium") lasts for five years. At the start of each Quinquennium, Synod also meets in London in November for a three-day Inaugural Synod. It is very unusual for Synod to meet three times a year outside the inaugural years.

Do I get paid?

The Diocese will reimburse your expenses up to a nominated amount including travel expenses and accommodation 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.

How do I get nominated?

You will need to be nominated by two members of clergy who hold an ecclesiastical office in the Diocese or Cathedral or who have permission to officiate and are also a member of a deanery synod in the Diocese.

Who can vote?

All clergy who hold an ecclesiastical office in the Diocese or Cathedral or who have permission to officiate and are also a member of a deanery synod in the Diocese may vote for members of the House of Clergy in the Diocese.