

Diocese of St Albans

General Synod Casual Vacancy (Clergy) Election 2024

The resignation of the Revd Canon Kevin Goss (prior to his retirement from the Diocese) has triggered a casual vacancy for a Clergy member (Proctor in Convocation) of the General Synod. There will therefore be elections this autumn to fill this vacancy. The electorate comprises Clergy members of Deanery Synod and only those clergy who held this role at 6.00 am on Tuesday 27 August 2024 are entitled to vote.

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

Issue of Citation / finalisation date for electorate	6.00 am on 27 August
Draft list of electors sent to Deaneries	Friday 13 September
Final list of electors transferred to Civica	Monday 30 September
Nominations invited from	Wednesday 9 October
Closing date for nominations	12 noon on Thursday 7 November
Deadline for submission of election addresses	12 noon on Friday 15 November
Voting opens	Wednesday 20 November
Hustings (online)	Tuesday 26 November
Voting closes	Thursday 12 December
Count	Monday 16 December

1 How to nominate or vote

The election process (both making nominations and casting votes) will be conducted online via an election portal. Those who have not provided an email address through their deanery synod roll may still submit a nomination or a vote on paper (although, in practice we hold email addresses for all clergy so this should not be necessary). Those who are not members of the electorate may still submit a nomination on paper.

Information setting out how to submit a nomination will be sent to you by email on or after 9 October 2024. 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 Tuesday 27 August 2024 (the date of issue of the citation confirming the casual vacancy).

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

2.5 Candidates must normally be qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on Tuesday 27 August 2024 (the date of issue of the citation confirming the casual vacancy).

2.6 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.)*

2.7 **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 citation, 6.00 a.m. on Tuesday 27 August 2024.

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.

4. When can nominations be made?

Invitations to nominate will be sent to the electorate on or after 9 October 2024, which is the first day from which nominations are invited. Nominations must be made by 12 noon on 7 November 2024.

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 15 November 2024)

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 online on Tuesday 26 November.

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 20 November. Electors may wish to have the benefit of attending the online hustings before casting votes. Voting will close on 12 December 2024.

David White
Diocesan Secretary (on behalf of the Presiding Officer)
October 2024