

To: All members of the electorate

28 July 2026

Elections to the General Synod of the Church of England

You may be aware that the Church of England's General Synod was dissolved on Tuesday 14 July, formally ending the term of its current membership. Elections to General Synod for the next five years will be held in each diocese starting next month.

As a member of a Deanery Synod, you are an elector and can nominate individuals for election. The election process (including nominations and voting) will be run by Civica Election Services using an online portal, however for those who wish to use a paper system this is also possible. Voting will take place using the single transferable vote (STV) system. The timetable for the election is given in Appendix A. The election rules, the STV rules and other information is available on the election page of the [Church of England website](#).

As you have provided an email address this will be used for all election purposes unless you tell us otherwise. If you wish to give a different email address (either for all election purposes or only for submitting an election address if standing for election) please contact governance@stalbandsdiocese.org. Note that if you wish to nominate and vote by paper you must let us know by contacting governance@stalbandsdiocese.org however you may still submit an election address (if standing for election) by email but again you must let us know.

Nomination information will be emailed to you on Friday 14 August from the following address: generalsynodelections@cesvotes.com – please do look out for correspondence from this account. Please can I suggest that you may want to add it to your list of contacts now rather than risk something going into spam or being rejected by your internet provider? Please note that the email from Civica will include a link to the portal which is unique for your own use. Should somebody who is not a deanery synod member wish to be nominated they should contact governance@stalbandsdiocese.org. You should not forward the email to other potential nominees.

The supporting information in the Portal will also be available on the diocesan website at <https://www.stalbandsdiocese.org/about-us/governance/synods-boards-and-committees/elections-to-general-synod-2026/> along with supplementary material and links to the Church of England [General Synod elections website](#).

Information for all electors

- Your name and email address will be automatically included on a register of electors unless you instruct the Presiding Officer (The Diocesan Registrar, Jon Baldwin – governance@stalbandsdiocese.org) that because of personal circumstances it must not be included. Please note that your name and email address will be provided to any candidate standing for election who requests those details, except if you have instructed the Presiding Officer that it must not be included (see above). These details can only be used for election purposes and candidates are advised that these details must be deleted after the elections.
- As an elector, you will normally be qualified to stand as a candidate in the election. There are various grounds contained in [Part 7 of the Church Representation Rules](#) under which someone may be disqualified from standing for election. A person is disqualified from being nominated or elected or from serving as a member of the General Synod if the person holds or takes a paid office or employment the appointment to which is, or may be, made or confirmed by —
 - (a) the General Synod,
 - (b) the Convocations,
 - (c) the Archbishops' Council,
 - (d) the Church Commissioners,
 - (e) the Church of England Pensions Board, or
 - (f) the Corporation of the Church House.
- A person is also disqualified if the person is included in a barred list under the [Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#) or the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in [Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933](#).
- Synod members may claim reimbursement for travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses for meetings held in London, and travel for meetings held in York (as the diocese will be billed directly for your accommodation and meals). If you are not able to pay up front for these things, we will work with you to ensure this is not a barrier to you serving on General Synod.
- Potential candidates may also wish to know that the 2025/26 rate of compensation set by the Archbishops' Council for loss of earnings that may be claimed due to attendance at General Synod or at meetings of the Synod's or Council's subordinate bodies is the actual loss up to £210 per day of absence.

Any reply to this letter should, if possible, reach the presiding officer Jon Baldwin – governance@stalbandsdiocese.org by 10 August 2026.

Yours sincerely



Jon Baldwin

Presiding Officer – General Synod Elections 2026 – for the Diocese of St Albans

governance@stalbandsdiocese.org

Appendix A – key dates in the timetable for elections to General Synod

Date	Stage
Tuesday 14 th July	General Synod is dissolved marking the end of the current quinquennium.
Friday 14 th August	Invitations to nominate are issued.
Monday 7 th September	Closing date for receipt of nominations. Deadline for receipt of election addresses.
Monday 21 st September	Invitations to vote are issued. Voting period opens.
Monday 12 th October	Voting period for voting by paper closes.
Tuesday 13 th October	Voting period for voting by using elections portal closes.
Wednesday 14 th October to Friday 16 th October	Dioceses will be allocated one of these three days for their count to take place.
Monday 19 th October	Declaration of result must take place by 5pm on this day.