

# allsaintsworcester

## STANDING FOR ELECTION AS DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE

### What is the Deanery Synod?

The Deanery Synod is the intermediate body between the Diocesan Synod and parochial church councils (PCCs) in each deanery. It consists of clergy and elected representatives from parish of the deanery.

They discuss matters of the Church of England, the deanery, of religious or public interest, and where relevant raise these with Diocesan Synod. It is an opportunity to build a sense of community with all parishes in the Worcester Deanery, establish common policies, promote the mission of the whole Church and encourage one another. As part of the governance of the Church of England the Deanery Synod enables communication between local parishes and the Diocesan Synod, both to raise issues and disseminate information and decisions made at Diocesan Synod. Members of Deanery Synods form the electorate for the General and Diocesan Synods.

As well as being fully participating PCC members, Deanery Synod representatives play an active part in the life of Worcester Deanery, attending Deanery Synod meetings (3 times a year) and consulting with the Vicar on deanery matters relevant to All Saints Worcester.

### What is the time commitment?

Deanery Synod representatives give on average 3-6 hours a month.

- Deanery Synod meetings happen 3 times a year
- PCC meets 9-10 times a year on Monday nights from 7.30-9.30pm and there will be a PCC away day each year.

### Who can stand for election?

To stand for election candidates must fulfil the criteria to be on, and remain on, the electoral roll:

- be baptised
- be over the age of 16
- be either a resident in the parish or a resident of another parish and have been habitually attending public worship for the last six months – i.e. you normally attend one of our weekly Sunday worship gatherings

Deanery Synod Representatives are members of the PCC and help make important decisions for the church so it is obviously hugely important that they are people who are actively participating in church life, demonstrably modelling a commitment to our vision, values and priorities that others can emulate and follow and able to speak on behalf of the wider church family. Indicators of this commitment would include attending a gathering regularly on a Sunday, participating in a smaller midweek community such as a life group and serving on a team.

### What is the process for standing for election?

If you have prayerfully discerned your suitability as Deanery Synod Representative, these are the next steps:

1. Please first chat to Rich or one of the churchwardens to find out more about what is involved and ask any questions you may have.
2. Complete a nomination form and find two other people also on the electoral roll who will submit forms supporting your nomination (nomination form found at [allsaintsworcester.org.uk/apcm](http://allsaintsworcester.org.uk/apcm) or request one from [pcc@allsaintsworcester.org.uk](mailto:pcc@allsaintsworcester.org.uk))
3. Attend the APCM.
4. If you are elected then you will be required to enter our safer recruitment process, including collecting references, and applying for an enhanced DBS – our safer recruitment team will support you in this.

### Disqualification (Church Representation Rules s46A and 46B)

A person shall be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council if the person:

- is disqualified from being a charity trustee under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 and the disqualification is not for the time being subject to a waiver by the Charity Commission.
- is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006)
- has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (unless the person's disqualification under this sub-section has been waived in writing by the bishop of the diocese in question.)
- has been so disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure [1977]

#### **Note**

- In order to confirm that all newly elected PCC members (including Deanery Synod Representative) are eligible to act as a charity trustee, they will be required to sign a declaration confirming this (i.e. non-disqualification under charity law) and will be asked to sign a Fit and Proper Person declaration. By confirming that you are eligible for election, you are confirming that you are able to sign these declarations.
- PCC members, including Deanery Synod Representatives, need to have a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check as part of our commitment to safer recruitment.
- PCC members are also trustees of Worcester Foodbank and their names and contact details will be supplied to the charity commission under the registration for both All Saints Worcester charity and Worcester Foodbank charities.