

Responsibilities of parochial representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod

This document is designed to give an outline of what it means to be a parochial representative on the Deanery Synod and should be read along with the document "Responsibilities of parochial representatives of the laity to the PCC".

General Introduction

You will be an ex-officio voting member of Holy Trinity's Parochial Church Council. Your qualification for election, term of office, and method of election are all the same as the parochial representatives of the laity to the PCC.

Schedule of meetings

You will be expected to attend PCC meetings as well as Deanery Synod meetings. Please see PCC responsibilities for details of meetings and what is required of you. Below are details of your responsibilities to the Deanery.

What is the Deanery Synod?

1. Holy Trinity Church (HTC) is in the Coventry North Deanery.
2. The Deanery Synod consists of representatives of the laity from each parish (the number dependent on the size of the electoral roll) and all clergy resident within the deanery, including those retired.
3. There are normally four meetings per year. They are in the evening and normally last about one and a half hours.
4. There are twenty to thirty attendees.
5. The Deanery Synod is a forum where clergy and laity of different theological persuasions can meet together, air their views and seek to understand better each other's' viewpoints within the wide diversity which is the Church of England.
6. The Deanery Synod is part of the channel through which information and resolutions are communicated within the Church of England. The channel is: Parish, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod, and General Synod (at the national level).
7. The deanery is one channel by which the diocese can speak to the parishes and vice versa, hence there will be guest speakers from the diocesan administration who can inform synod members what the diocese and the church, more generally, is thinking about on such going concerns as: the place of children within the church, evangelism or staffing issues in the deanery.
8. Parishes may send resolutions up to the deanery, the deanery can debate the resolution and pass it on to the diocese and so on. In the past Coventry North Deanery has passed on a resolution which has resulted in a more child-centred Eucharistic prayer being incorporated into the book of Common Worship.
9. Coventry diocese's deaneries are moving towards greater responsibility for deciding how much each parish should pay towards maintenance of the diocese and payments for full time clergy.
10. The deanery synod is a statutory body under the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and is the intermediate body between the Diocesan Synod and parochial church councils in the respective deaneries. Its functions are:
 - a. to consider matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to their deanery, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest;
 - b. to bring together the views of parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
 - c. to make known, and so far as appropriate, put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod;
 - d. to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred to that synod by the General Synod, and to sound parochial opinion whenever they are required or consider it appropriate to do so;
 - e. to raise matters, as the deanery synod consider appropriate, with the Diocesan Synod.