

## **Deanery Synod Representatives**

### **2026 is the year for elections to Deanery Synods. According to the Church Representation Rules:**

19 (2) The number of representatives to be elected from each parish is determined by a resolution of the diocesan synod no later than 31 December in the year preceding the elections.

(3) A diocesan synod may calculate the number of representatives from a parish for the purposes of paragraph (2):

(a) by reference to the number of names on the roll of the parish specified in the notification under Rule 10,

(b) by reference to the number of parish churches or districts in the parish, or

(c) by a combination of both those methods.

(4) The secretary of a diocesan synod must, no later than 31 December in the year preceding the elections certify to the secretary of each PCC the number of parochial representatives to be elected at the annual parochial church meeting of the parish.

### **No change is proposed to the current system. The Synod is therefore invited to resolve:**

“THAT the number of laity to be elected to Deanery Synods in 2026 be:

- (a) where there are fewer than 26 members on the Electoral Roll – 1 representative
- (b) in all other cases – 2 representatives with an additional representation provided for in the following paragraph:

A parish will be entitled to additional representation in the following circumstances:

- (i) where there are more than 300 names on the Electoral Roll – 1 additional representative;
- (ii) where the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod certifies that the parish has more than one church or licensed place of worship – 1 additional representative for each such place of worship after the first:

provided that where (i) and (ii) both apply to a parish, its additional representation should be calculated under whichever of those paragraphs gives the greater entitlement”

## **Bishop's Mission Orders**

In addition, the Church Representation Rules makes provision for how BMOs are represented in the synodical government of the Church. Rule 24 states that "Where a bishop's mission order is in force, a diocesan synod must, at the direction of the bishop or bishops who made the order, make a scheme to provide for the representation on a deanery synod of such of the persons to whom the order relates as are specified in or under the scheme."

In giving a direction and making a scheme, the bishop(s) and synod must have regard to:

- the need to make due provision for the representation of the worshipping community involved in the mission initiative.
- the need for appropriate governance of the initiative

There are two such schemes already in effect, the first for Christ Church Endcliffe BMO, approved by Synod on 26 November 2022 for representation in Ecclesall Deanery and the second for St Leonard's Community Church Arbourthorne & Norfolk Park BMO, approved by Synod on 9 March 2024 for representation in Attercliffe Deanery. Both schemes remain in place. As the schemes state, the Mission initiative role will be treated as the electoral role for these purposes and the number of laity to be elected to Deanery Synod will follow the current system as with parishes.