

OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

Elected Representation from Deaneries on Diocesan Synod, 2015–18

1. Under rules 31(6) and 32(6) respectively of the Church Representation Rules ('CRR'), the Diocesan Synod is required to determine not later than 31 December 2014:
 - (i) the numbers of members of the diocesan houses of clergy and laity to be elected from deaneries in the 2015 Diocesan Synod elections; and
 - (ii) the method of election to be used in those elections.

Scheme of representation

2. Rule 31(6) of the CRR specifies that the number to be elected from each deanery to the diocesan house of clergy is to be related to the size of that deanery's house of clergy, and the number to be elected to the house of laity to the aggregate electoral roll size for the deanery; furthermore, at least two members are to be elected by each house of every deanery synod.
3. The sizes of the deanery houses of clergy as at 30 April 2014, certified for this purpose by deaneries under rule 31(7) of the CRR, were as follows:

Berkshire		Buckingham		Dorchester	
Bracknell	18	Amersham	40	Abingdon	32
Bradfield	19	Aylesbury	27	Aston & Cuddesdon	33
Maidenhead & Windsor	23	Buckingham	9	Bicester & Islip	17
Newbury	26	Burnham & Slough	27	Chipping Norton	16
Reading	43	Claydon	11	Deddington	27
Sonning	33	Milton Keynes	24	Henley	16
		Mursley	7	Vale of White Horse	7
		Newport	13	Wallingford	14
		Wendover	13	Wantage	8
		Wycombe	37	Witney	15
				Woodstock	17
Oxford					
Cowley	50				
Oxford	72				

Electoral roll figures aggregated by deanery (as certified under CRR rule 4 following 2014 annual parochial church meetings) are as follows:

Berkshire		Buckingham		Dorchester	
Bracknell	2574	Amersham	3796	Abingdon	2005
Bradfield	1442	Aylesbury	1931	Aston & Cuddesdon	2207
Maidenhead & Windsor	2266	Buckingham	651	Bicester & Islip	1253
Newbury	2337	Burnham & Slough	2159	Chipping Norton	1051
Reading	3633	Claydon	843	Deddington	1292
Sonning	3122	Milton Keynes	1447	Henley	1357
		Mursley	747	Vale of White Horse	905
		Newport	989	Wallingford	1148
		Wendover	1504	Wantage	742
		Wycombe	2941	Witney	1558
				Woodstock	1081
Oxford					
Cowley	1288				
Oxford	2773				

4. The scheme of representation adopted by the Diocesan Synod in 2011 for use in the 2012 elections, and used previously for the 2009 elections, is as follows:

Lay representation		Clerical representation	
Deanery aggregate electoral roll	Number to be elected	Size of deanery house of clergy	Number to be elected
<1401	2	<21	2
1401–2100	3	21–30	3
2101–2800	4	31–40	4
2801–3500	5	41–50	5
>3500	6	>50	6

5. If adopted again, this scheme would result in a 2015–18 Synod of 174 elected members, 84 clergy and 90 laity. Including *ex-officio* members, this would give a Synod of 100 clergy and 99 laity, in addition to the four members of the House of Bishops and any co-opted or nominated members. This would be in line with the stipulations in CRR rule 31(8) that a diocesan synod must have no fewer than 100 members and no more than 270, to include co-options and bishop’s nominees, and that the sizes of the houses of clergy and laity should be “approximately equal”.
6. For reference, breakdowns by deanery of the numbers of elected members resulting from the scheme of representation above are given in Appendix 1, and full details of the non-elected membership of the Diocesan Synod are provided in Appendix 2.
7. A number of concerns around the above scheme were received following the 2012 elections. Following detailed analysis by the Agenda Sub-Committee, the Bishop’s Council and Standing Committee remains of the view that this scheme provides a fair and appropriate balance of representation between deaneries, and accordingly recommends to the Synod its adoption again for the 2015 elections.

Method of election

8. Under CRR rule 32(6), the Diocesan Synod must determine whether the 2015 elections should be conducted by the first-past-the-post system, or by the single transferable vote (as used for elections to the General Synod). Diocesan Synod elections are conducted by deanery, under the supervision of volunteer presiding officers appointed by the Bishop under CRR rule 32(2). In that context the first-past-the-post system, which has been used on all previous occasions, has the significant advantage of being very much more straightforward to administer. Whichever method is chosen, rule 32(6) provides that it will also be used in any election to fill a casual vacancy arising during the 2015–18 triennium. As previously, the Bishop’s Council and Standing Committee recommends to the Synod that the 2015 elections should be conducted by the first-past-the-post system.

Action

9. **Diocesan Synod is asked to consider whether it wishes to agree that:**
- (i) the scheme of representation used in the 2009 and 2012 elections should be adopted again for use in the 2015 elections;**
 - (ii) the 2015 elections should be conducted by the first-past-the-post system rather than by single transferable vote.**

**APPENDIX 1: BREAKDOWN BY DEANERY OF ELECTED MEMBERSHIP OF
2015–18 SYNOD UNDER PROPOSED SCHEME OF REPRESENTATION, ALONGSIDE
PRESENT SYNOD FOR COMPARISON, WITH DIFFERENCES UNDERLINED**

DEANERY	2015–18 Synod		Present Synod	
	Laity	Clergy	Laity	Clergy
Bracknell	4	2	4	2
Bradfield	3	2	3	2
Maidenhead & Windsor	4	3	4	3
Newbury	4	3	4	3
Reading	6	<u>5</u>	6	6
Sonning	5	<u>4</u>	5	3
<i>Berkshire Archdeaconry</i>	26	19	26	19
Amersham	<u>6</u>	4	7	4
Aylesbury	3	3	3	3
Buckingham	2	2	2	2
Burnham and Slough	4	<u>3</u>	4	4
Claydon	2	2	2	2
Milton Keynes	3	3	3	3
Mursley	2	2	2	2
Newport	2	2	2	2
Wendover	3	2	3	2
Wycombe	5	4	5	4
<i>Buckingham Archdeaconry</i>	32	27	33	28
Abingdon	3	4	3	4
Aston and Cuddesdon	4	4	4	4
Bicester and Islip	2	2	2	2
Chipping Norton	2	2	2	2
Deddington	<u>2</u>	3	3	3
Henley	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	3	3
Vale of White Horse	2	2	2	2
Wallingford	2	2	2	2
Wantage	2	2	2	2
Witney	3	<u>2</u>	3	3
Woodstock	2	2	2	2
<i>Dorchester Archdeaconry</i>	26	27	28	29
Cowley	<u>2</u>	5	3	5
Oxford	<u>4</u>	6	5	6
<i>Oxford Archdeaconry</i>	6	11	8	11
TOTALS	90	84	95	87

**APPENDIX 2: EX-OFFICIO, NOMINATED AND
CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD**

Bishops of Oxford, Buckingham, Dorchester and Reading (4)
Deans of Christ Church and St George's, Windsor (2)
Archdeacons of Berkshire, Buckingham, Dorchester and Oxford (4)
Chancellor of the Diocese (1)
Chair of the Board of Finance (1)
Chair of the Board of Education (1)
Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (1)
Members of the House of Clergy of the General Synod (currently 10)
Members of the House of Laity of the General Synod (currently 8)
Bishop's nominations (clerical or lay) (up to 10)
House of Clergy co-options (up to 5)
House of Laity co-options (up to 5)