

GENERAL SYNOD 2026

NOMINATION FORM - HOUSE of LAITY for the election of 4 Members of the House of Laity to represent the diocese in the General Synod

This form must be returned to the Presiding Officer, Kate Darwent, at
synod@cofeguildford.org.uk or posted or delivered by hand to
Kate Darwent, Church House, Stag Hill, Guildford, GU2 7UP

Paper nominations may be delivered by post or in person or by email (scanned copies or photos are acceptable) so as to arrive no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, 7th September 2026. Digital and typed signatures are both acceptable.

Particulars of CANDIDATE

Please write in block capitals

Surname			
Full Christian names			
Title or post-nominal letters (voluntary)		Year of Birth	
Commonly used name (if applicable)			
Address	 Postcode		
Are your personal circumstances such that your postal address should not be published for the purposes of the election?			☐ Yes ☐ No
Email address			
I am on the electoral roll for the Parish of			
Have you previously served as a member of the General Synod? Please indicate by putting a cross in the appropriate box?			☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please give dates of previous service and the House to which you belonged:			

Particulars of NOMINATOR 1

Please write in block capitals

Full name			
Address	 Postcode		
Phone No.		Email	
Member of deanery synod			

Signature of NOMINATOR 1

I, the undersigned, being a qualified elector in the Diocese of Guildford nominate the above candidate as a person qualified to serve as a member of the House of Laity for the diocese.

**Signature of
nominator**

..... **Date**2026

Particulars of NOMINATOR 2

Please write in block capitals

Full name			
Address	 Postcode		
Phone No.		Email	
Member of deanery synod			

Signature of NOMINATOR 2

I, the undersigned, being a qualified elector in the Diocese of Guildford nominate the above candidate as a person qualified to serve as a member of the House of Laity for the diocese.

**Signature of
nominator**

..... **Date**2026

Consent of candidate

I hereby declare my consent to stand for election and to serve as a member of the House of Laity for the diocese of Guildford.

Signature of candidate **Date**2026

For qualifications and details of electoral addresses see accompanying notes.

HOUSE OF LAITY ELECTIONS

Qualifications of candidates

1. A candidate must be a lay person who:
 - (a) has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or a Church in communion with it at least three times in the twelve months before the date of the dissolution of the General Synod;
 - (b) either is confirmed (or ready and desirous of being confirmed) or comes within paragraph 1(b) of Canon B 15A (i.e. is a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity);
 - (c) is aged 18 or over on the date of dissolution of the General Synod; and
 - (d) satisfies one of the following conditions:
 - i. is on the church electoral roll of a parish in the diocese or, in the case of a cathedral in the diocese, if not a parish church, on the community roll; and
 - ii. is declared by the leader of a mission initiative in the diocese to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative.
2. Unlike electors, candidates need not be members of a deanery synod.
3. Candidates must normally be qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on Tuesday 14th July 2026 (the date of the dissolution of the 2021-2026 General Synod).
4. However, the leader of a mission initiative may declare a person to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative, at any time from Monday 15th June to 12th August 2026 inclusive.
5. A candidate must not be the holder of a paid office or employment to which one of the following central bodies may make or confirm an appointment:
 - the General Synod
 - the Convocations
 - the Church Commissioners (but a Church Commissioner in receipt of a salary or other emolument is not disqualified)
 - the Church of England Pensions Board
 - the Archbishops' Council
 - the Corporation of the Church House
6. 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
7. A candidate may not stand for more than one diocese or electoral area simultaneously but may stand for an electoral area other than that in which the candidate is on an electoral roll or, if entered on the community roll of a cathedral that is not a parish church, may stand for an area other than that in which the cathedral is situated.

Qualifications of nominators

8. Nominators must be diocesan electors qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on the date of the dissolution, Tuesday 14th July 2026. The diocesan electors are the members of the house of laity of each deanery synod in the diocese, other than the co-opted members and the members of a religious community with representation in the General Synod.
9. If a poll is held, the name of each nominator of a candidate will be published alongside the name of the candidate.

Election addresses

Every candidate is entitled to ask the presiding officer to circulate an election address to the electors. The address is to be prepared at the candidate's own expense.

In a laity election, the address must be either in that electronic form or in hard copy on either or both sides of a single sheet of A4 paper.

Election addresses will be sent by the presiding officer to the electors with the invitations to vote on Monday 21st September 2026. They must be given to the presiding officer, by e-mail to: synod@cofeguildford.org.uk or by post or in person at the above address, so as to be received by the presiding officer by 5 p.m. on Monday 7th September 2026. The presiding officer is under no obligation to circulate addresses received after that or which are not in the required form.

The election address of each elected candidate will be displayed on the diocesan website until the end of the quinquennium (or, if the elected person ceases to be a member at some earlier date, until that date).

You are invited to submit a passport style photo, which will accompany your election address. Photos may be delivered in person or emailed to synod@cofeguildford.org.uk. If you do not submit a photo, the words "Photo Not Provided" will be displayed together with your other details on the online voting site.

Those wishing to stand for election may wish to know that Synod members will be reimbursed 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 2026/27 rate of compensation set by the Archbishops' Council for loss of earnings due to attendance at General Synod or at meetings of the Synod's or Council's subordinate bodies is the actual loss up to £220 per day of absence.