

Queen to open new General Synod

Her Majesty The Queen will officially inaugurate the new General Synod later this month after a special service in Westminster Abbey.

The General Synod is responsible for considering and approving legislation affecting the whole Church of England, formulating authorised forms of worship, debating matters of national and international importance, and approving the national budget for the Church of England's national institutions – and how it will be paid for by dioceses. The General Synod is a law-making body. It can amend or repeal Acts of Parliament, and it can pass Measures – legislation which has the status of an Act of Parliament – and make Statutory Instruments.

Elections for members of the new Synod took place in September and October. Licensed clergy in the diocese – but not the bishops – voted for three members of the House of Clergy, while lay members of Deanery Synods in the diocese voted for four members of the House of Laity. A number of national or provincial-wide (York and Canterbury) elections took place for specific constituencies, including cathedral deans; and as a result, the Dean of Southwell Minster, was elected unopposed.

The newly elected members – listed on the right – are expected

to serve until this new Synod is dissolved in July 2026. Each new Synod following elections is marked with an inauguration service at Westminster Abbey, attended by the Queen, in her role as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. After the service, The Queen, the Archbishops and other members of the new Synod process the short distance through Dean's Yard to Church House, Westminster, for the official inauguration of the new General Synod and a speech by the Queen.

Unlike the State Opening of Parliament, where the Queen's Speech is a dry and formal affair, setting out the legislative programme of the government of the day, the Queen's speech at the start of a new Synod is a far more personal affair, reflecting The Queen's strong personal faith and – more often than not – something of her humour.

The service and inauguration will be the first item of official business in this Group of Sessions, which will take place on 16 and 17 November. Other business will include debates on Generosity and Diocesan Finances, the 2022 budget and apportionment, and this new Synod's first piece of legislation – approving an Act of Synod to implement the Vacancy in See Amendment Regulations 2021.

General Synod Members from Southwell and Nottingham

House of Bishops

The Right Revd Paul Williams
Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham

House of Clergy

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan
Dean of Southwell Minster
(Elected by Deans in York province)

The Revd Lydia Corbett
Curate of Basford

The Revd Betty Hancock
Vicar of Bawtry

The Revd Ian Paul
NSM of Nottingham St Nicholas

House of Laity

Mrs Joan Beck
Bassetlaw and Bawtry Deanery

Mr Gavin Drake
Gedling Deanery

Miss Kathryn Hubbard
Nottingham South Deanery

Mr Denis Tully
Nottingham South Deanery