

Road Map 1

“Include Me In” The Inclusive Church General Synod Campaign Coalition

What is General Synod? Why stand?



What is General Synod?

General Synod is like the church's Parliament but more so. As well as being the only body in England apart from Parliament which can make law (Church law) it is also the main forum for debates and discussions about all the matters which affect the Church of England. Set up in 1970 it's made up of 476 members, divided into the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. All Diocesan Bishops are automatically members, with 8 Suffragans who are elected. Clergy and Laity are elected by Diocese in accordance with the number of worshippers in that Diocese.

Synod sits for a five year term, (a “quinquennium”) and the next term starts in November 2015.

As well as defining church law on questions of liturgy and church order (for example, the new “common tenure” for clergy), it also debates matters affecting church life. There have been recent debates on, for example, the Bible, faith and religion, pensions for civil partners, and Forces chaplaincy.

Crucially, it also has responsibility for the final form of legislation regarding women bishops, and for the financial health of the church.

The system of election – the Single Transferable Vote – means that the Synod is quite closely representative of the church as a whole, with a spread of members from traditionalist to innovative, from liberal to conservative. So debates are often lively, albeit respectful!

Why stand for it?

We need to ensure General Synod continues to be fully reflective of the Church. Good, committed people from across the spectrum will help make sure that Synod's work both reflects and encourages Christian life in England. The Church of England has a particular place in the life of the country and we need to be sure we fulfil our role properly – which means, people like you being involved!

What's the commitment?

Synod meets at least twice a year, three times if necessary. In February there is a Monday – Friday meeting in London; in July a Friday – Tuesday meeting in York, and if required in November there is a 2 day meeting in London. Between these, you may be asked to serve on a committee or working party.

What will you get out of it?

The IC Coalition is hoping to change the discourse within the C of E. There's been too much opposition, too much tribalism, and not enough engagement and mutual respect. You could be part of that, working closely alongside others who share your commitment and passion to help the C of E address the new century and our changing society. You'll meet able and interesting people (mostly!) and understand the life of the church better. If you like that kind of thing, it's genuinely fun.

There are some very important decisions coming up – regarding women bishops and the finances of the church. There are ongoing questions about human sexuality, and the full inclusion of people from ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Questions of love, justice and the church remain urgent. You could be part of those discussions and help make sure that they reflect and try to live out the Gospel imperatives.

You can also, with enough support, bring a Private Members' Motion on anything important to you in church life.

Dioceses will meet your expenses for residence and travel.

For info email or phone Bob Callaghan, IC Coalition Coordinator
bob.callaghan@inclusiive-church.org.uk 07935 374877

**Road Map 2
“Include Me In”
The Inclusive Church
General Synod Campaign Coalition 2015**



If that's what General Synod is what's this coalition about?

AIM for these General Synod Elections

to maximise the election of clergy and lay members supportive of building an inclusive church and committed to maintaining the Anglican tradition of inclusion and diversity.

Key Objectives of Campaign

- To aim for a 2015 – 2020 General Synod membership which has an at least two thirds majority in both clergy and lay Houses who are seeking to bring about the full inclusion of women in the Episcopate
- To aim for a 2015 – 2020 General Synod membership which has a majority inclusive stance on matters affecting LGBT people
- To aim for a 2015 – 2020 General Synod membership in which the representation of black and minority ethnic people is doubled

Why should YOU stand for membership of General Synod?

To debate and legislate for issues of major importance to the development of the Church of England and its mission.

Which issues will come up in the next 5 years?

Women Bishops, Human Sexuality, Same Sex Marriage, The Anglican Covenant, Multi Faith Britain, Young people and schools, Mission Environment and Climate Change, Who leads the Church of England? The needs and contribution of older people, Ethical issues concerning Just War, the Criminal Justice System, Medical Ethics.

For further info contact:

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Road Map 3
“Include Me In”
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Preparing to Stand for General Synod (House of Laity)

5 Steps to help you prepare

1. Find a diocesan contact / group to advise you.

Contact your own Incumbent to advise them you are thinking of standing and a lay person already on General Synod in your diocese.

Check out with them your eligibility and what it involves. (A quick rule of thumb re eligibility is that you must be 18 or over, a communicant member of the Church of England, and on the electoral roll of the church you attend regularly)

2. Write an election address

Speak to your colleague already on Synod about how best to do this and ask to look at previous election addresses of successful candidates.

Read Roadmap 3 “How to write a Successful Election Address”

3. Find a proposer and seconder

Your diocesan contact will help you to find two eligible electors to propose and second you as a good candidate. They must be Lay Deanery Synod Representatives who should nominate you by the closing date, ????????

4. Let people know you are standing

It is vital to let as many lay electors know as you can that you propose to stand. Use anything you can to help you do this – emails , letters , gatherings, phone calls – and allow those who know you, including your diocesan contacts and church friendship and campaigning groups to help you.

5. Work together

It is vitally important to understand the voting system used for these elections – “The Single Transferable Vote System” which allows as many good candidates to stand as possible without the risk of splitting the vote, and underlines the importance of working in close cooperation with each other.

Read Roadmap 4. “Everything You ever Wanted to know about STVS”

This is the Timetable of Events leading up to the Election

Keep your eye on the dates involved!

Not later than 20th July – nomination papers sent to electors and election timetable presented

Friday 3rd September – Closing Date for nominations

Friday 17th September – Issue of Ballot papers

Friday 8th October – Final date for Return of Ballot papers

11th – 14th October – Count

22nd – 24th November – Inauguration of new General Synod.

Remember – it is not possible to have too many supporters!

In addition to your diocesan group or contact, or if you are finding it difficult to find a local contact, please contact one of us who each represents the groups of the IC GS Campaign Coalition.

We will try to help you find more local contacts and let others know you wish to stand.

For further info contact:

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Road Map 4

“Include Me In”

The Inclusive Church

General Synod Campaign Coalition



Preparing to Stand for General Synod (House of Clergy)

5 Steps to help you prepare

1. Find a diocesan contact to advise you.

Contact a clergy colleague you already know on General Synod to advise you on the process and offer support. Alternatively email one of the names at the end of this sheet. We will help you find a local contact sympathetic to the aims of the Inclusive Church General Synod Campaign Coalition.

2. Write an election address

Speak to your colleague already on Synod about how best to do this and ask to look at previous election addresses of successful candidates.

Read Roadmap 5 “How to write a Successful Election Address”

3. Find a proposer and seconder

Your diocesan contact will help you to find two eligible electors for the House of Clergy to propose and second you. It is helpful if they represent the full range of your views rather than a narrow spectrum of opinion, and work in different locations in your diocese. They will have nomination forms and should nominate you by the closing date, **Friday 3rd September**.

4. Let people know you are standing

It is vital to let as many clergy know as you can that you propose to stand. Use anything you can to help you do this – emails, letters, gatherings, phone calls – and allow those who know you, including your diocesan contacts and campaigning groups to help you. Let your colleagues know where you stand on crucial issues.

5. Work together

It is vitally important to understand the voting system used for these elections – “The Single Transferable Vote System” which allows as many good candidates to stand as possible without the risk of splitting the vote, and underlines the importance of working in close cooperation with each other.

Read Roadmap 6 “ Everything You ever Wanted to know about STVS”

You will discover that the more we can work together the more successful we will be at achieving our aims for this General Synod Election Campaign.

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Road Map 5.

“Include Me In” The Inclusive Church

General Synod Campaign Coalition

How to write a General Synod Election Address



So you're standing for General Synod. Here's how to maximise your chance of election with a brilliant Election Address.

Rules and Regulations

It is no longer permissible for candidates to photocopy their own election addresses. To try to standardise numbers and (to a certain extent) styles, only one copy of the address is allowed to be produced by the candidate and sent to the diocesan presiding officer. The presiding officer will then arrange for sufficient copies to be made so that all electors receive a copy of all election addresses.

The good news is these reproduction and postage costs will be met by the diocese.

This means your address must be:

- 1 sheet of A4 paper, which can be printed on both sides
- Black and white, not colour.
- Received by the diocesan presiding officer by **Friday ?? September 2015.**

But that still leaves plenty of room for imagination and style!

Tips on Format and Content

- A good photo on the front page is essential. Don't forget to smile!
- Use bullet points, good layout and don't waffle.
- State the names of your proposer and seconder and give a brief synopsis of your work and voluntary experience, including all church involvement (e.g. member of pcc, deanery and diocesan synod, youth leader etc.)
- Sell yourself. People want to know what you have done for your church.
- Set out your goals for General Synod and what you hope to achieve – but be realistic and seek advice on timelines and legal issues
- Set out your personal gifts - what you bring to the position outside work and voluntary experience. Again sell yourself and your dedication, commitment and – of course – your great sense of humour!

On matters of inclusion:

- **Be open and clear about expressing your pro - inclusion views on women bishops and lesbian and gay issues.**

People sometimes use misleading language in their election addresses. For example 'in favour of women's ministry' often means 'I do not accept women priests' and a 'faithful' or 'orthodox' person is often someone who is against women priests, all lesbian and gay people and anything non - traditional. 'Bible - based' teaching means the same. It can be very difficult to extract the truth. So be clear and truthful. We don't play those games.

- **Be clear and truthful but not confrontational.**

A person who presents their views in a very confrontational manner can be expected to get a first preference vote of those who strongly agree with him/her but can be seen as an extremist to others who are less confident in their views. And that, realistically, is the majority of the clergy and lay electors! So don't be too 'in yer face'. If you do have a calling to prophetic ministry on proinclusion issues in General Synod then save it for your maiden speech. You will be much more effective and more people will hear you!

Wording along the lines of, for example, 'I fully support the provision for women bishops under a single clause measure and the full inclusion of lesbian and gay people in all areas of the church, including the three - fold ordained ministry' is clear, explicit and reasonable.

- **Don't forget to include your name and contact details**

Your diocesan contact can provide you with examples of previously successful election addresses

BE CONFIDENT. BE CREATIVE. BE CLEAR

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
MORE INCLUSIVE**

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Roadmap 6

“Include Me In”

The Inclusive Church

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Everything you ever wanted to know about the Single Transferable Vote System

The Single Transferable Vote (STV) system may seem complicated, but isn't really. Not if you keep in mind that the objective of the STV system is to ensure that as many electors as possible are represented by members of their choice.

It is trying to gain a consensus, electing candidates who are (more or less) generally acceptable, avoiding extremists and landslides.

How Is This Achieved?

...by operating a preferential grading system where electors like you place a '1' against the name of your first choice and '2' against your second, '3' for third etc, as far as you wish or until the total number of candidates have been ranked.

Unlike the First Past the Post system, the STV system allows you the elector to express your support for more than one candidate. While your vote is valid as soon as a clear first choice has been expressed and so electors may only vote for one candidate if they so wish, **by ranking all your preferred candidates, you may find that if your first preference doesn't get in, your second or third may well do.**

And maybe all of them!

The System Itself

If there are 3 places for election, the vote quota (i.e. the number of votes each candidate requires to be elected) is one quarter of the valid votes. That way, three quarters of the electors are thereby represented by members of their choice. If there are 4 to elect, the quota is one fifth and four fifths of the electors are represented by their choice and so on. In other words, the greater number to elect, the greater the proportion of electors are represented by members of their choice.

The Count.

Without going into the mechanics of the counting procedure – which are mathematical and complicated – simply stated, it works like this:

- Stage 1: Any candidate receiving the quota (or more) of first preference votes is immediately elected.
- Stage 2: The surplus votes of the immediately successful candidates are transferred to the other candidates in proportion to their number of second preferences.
- Stage 3: If there is no surplus to transfer then the candidate with the lowest no. of first preference votes is excluded.
- Subsequent top - in, bottom - out stages are repeated as above until all places are filled.

Can the Vote be Split?

No. It is not really possible to have too many good candidates. Unlike, the First Past the Post system, candidates who share views on crucial issues are helping each other, not standing against each other. They all appeal to individual electors like yourself who will rank them near each other and so all have an increased chance of getting in from each others transferred votes.

Election Tactic

It is crucial therefore that as an elector you use all your ranking preferences when casting your vote and rank candidates who support your aims and those of this coalition as high as possible. Stop voting once you end your list of preferred candidates. Don't vote for those you would not want to have on Synod.

Your diocesan contact will tell you which candidates support your aims and answer any questions you may have.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!

YOU CAN HELP MAKE

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MORE INCLUSIVE

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Roadmap 7

“Include Me In”

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The Election Timetable

Notification of the election timetable and nomination papers sent out to diocesan electors **Not later than 20th July 2015?**

Notification of validity of nomination
As soon as nominations received

Closing Date for nominations

Friday 3rd September?

Issue of Ballot Papers

Friday 17th September?

Closing date for Return of Ballot Papers

Friday 8th October?

Date of Count

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th October?

Inauguration of New Synod

22nd – 24th November?

Working together in coalition are

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**Please Stand! You can help make
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MORE INCLUSIVE**

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Road Map 8

How to use your vote.

Advice for lay Deanery Synod members when voting in the General Synod elections.



1. Make sure you VOTE! Of the three Houses in Synod, the House of Laity has consistently been more conservative, less inclusive and much less representative of its constituency. It is vital that lay members of Deanery Synods, who are the lay electorate, use their votes wisely.
2. Study the candidates' manifestos carefully. You will want to note gifts and experience, and look for indications of the candidate's attitude to Women Bishops, which will be a key issue in the life of the next quinquennium. An inclusive candidate will make it clear that he or she wants women in the episcopate, on equal terms with men. A Code of Practice for those unwilling to accept women as bishops is acceptable; separate dioceses or any legally binding separate structures or compulsory delegation by female to male bishops are not. Pay close attention to the precise words used.
3. Consult other inclusive friends if you are uncertain about someone's suitability. Be wary of any candidate who makes no reference whatsoever in his or her address to inclusive issues, particularly women bishops. Phone or email others whose opinion you trust, or consult one of the names listed below.
4. If there are Hustings in your diocese, go along and ask the candidates questions about their views. Be quite specific, and make sure you get a clear answer. If you don't, do not vote for that candidate.
5. Under the STV system, you are able to vote for more than one person, and you should make full use of that opportunity. Decide who amongst those standing would represent your views at Synod. Put them in order of preference, but vote ONLY for those in whom you feel confident. DO NOT vote at all for anyone whose views are at odds with your own. DO NOT feel obliged to vote for others. Leave those spaces blank.

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Road Map 9

“Include Me In”

Sample Agenda for Initial Meetings



A flexible format for creating meetings to encourage people to stand for election

1. **Welcome and Prayers** – (designated chair or host of meeting)
2. **Introductions** – Identify people already on Synod and people thinking about standing.
3. Ask a confident member of GS (clergy/lay) to explain **What is General Synod** and why stand.
Road Map 1
4. Read Road Map 2 – **The aims of the IC GS Campaign Coalition**. This may be done by the host or you may want to invite a member for the coalition campaign group to come and speak.

Contact Bob Callaghan if so and he will organize a member of the Inclusive Church General Synod Campaign Coalition to come if at all possible.
5. Invite a lay member of General Synod from your Diocese to explain Road Map 3 **How to stand for election to the House of Laity**
6. And/ Or a clergy person to explain Road Map 4
7. Speak to Road Map 5 **“How to write an Election Address”**
8. Ditto the Road Map on **The Single Transferable Vote System** (6)
9. Chair / host/ guest from IC coalition identifies **Next Steps**.

Next steps might include

- a) Deciding whether to stand and letting a diocesan contact know
- b) Small workshop on how to write an election address
- c) Diocesan wide drinks party for Deanery Synod members willing to support inclusive candidates , so that GS members , new candidates and Deanery Synod Lay Electors can mingle and get to know each other before voting
- d) Road Map 8 –“How to use your vote” to be distributed to Deanery Synod Electors by the Deanery Synod meetings in June

Pick and choose between Road Maps; Advertise well (we can help you advertise your meeting via our networks); Be clear and confident about the aims of the coalition for the elections to General Synod in 2015; Invite present GS members to speak; Leave space for questions; Follow up possible candidates.

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