## IC logo see-thru

***General Synod 2015 Campaign***

# Report on Deanery Synod Election Campaign Spring 2014

Aim: To increase inclusive representation on General Synod 2015 by first gaining more Deanery Synod electors.

**Work carried out**:

* Establishing contact database using partners lists. Starting from an almost zero point established and confirmed around 150 key contacts within the dioceses. Using these to onward circulate the Deanery Synod Election Spring 2014 Campaign Pack and Poster – 4 Days
* Designed and authored Campaign Pack ready for distribution and produced one page poster – 4 days
* Initial mailout of by diocese to key contacts – 3-5th Feb around 20% bounce back which were followed up and corrected – 3 days
* Updated and confirmed Affirming Catholicism and Gras mailing list – 1 day
* Update and repeat mailout – to 150 diocesan contacts (few bounce backs!) and around 200 Gras contacts – 1 days
* Attending Partnership Day and other meetings – 2 days

**Observations:**

* At the outset of this campaign is quickly became apparent that there are few up to date and accurate databases of those who might take an inclusive position within the church.
* Time was taken to construct an accurate list of contacts that would then circulate papers to their contacts on the basis that they would be more effective in targeting than mass distribution. This process took longer than anticipated but has resulted in an accurate list of 150 key contacts (so long as nobody moves!)
* The Campaign Pack appeared to be well-received by those who commented. Repeated requests for the pack were made and of those who commented most found it very helpful. It was widely circulated by the key diocesan contacts and partner organisations. Indeed in one Diocese it became the “official” document and circulated by the Bishop.
* The nature of this campaign, which in the first phase, targets local PCC voting for their deanery synod rep(s) makes it is difficult to assess at this stage how many people stood as a deanery synod candidates and indeed were successful as a result of this campaign. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the message that “being part of Deanery Synods is essential to change” did seem to filter through. It is possible that only when the new General Synod is voted in in Summer 2015 that the full effect will be seen.

# General Synod Elections Summer 2015



[DRAFT DATES TBC]

Not later than 21st July – nomination papers sent to electors and election timetable presented
Friday 4th September – Closing Date for nominations

Friday 18th September – Issue of Ballot papers

Friday 9th October – Final date for Return of Ballot papers

12th – 15th October – Count

23rd – 25th November – Inauguration of new General Synod.

# Proposed Timetable and Stages of General Synod Campaign 2015

**August 2014** – Draft Election Timetable should be announced by General Synod

**October 2014** – Initial mailout to make people aware of the timescale of elections

**Nov 2014 – Jan 2015** – Drafting of Campaign Pack

**March 2015** – Mailout of Campaign Pack

**June** **2015** – Repeat of Campaign Pack

**June 2015** - Dioceses will be advised to circulate initial paperwork in June 2015 as the elections take place towards the end of the summer holiday period with likely key dates of 5th September for nominations and a closing date ballot papers likely to be 9th October.

# Possible Contents of General Synod 2015 Campaign Pack

* **What does the General Synod Campaign 2015 believe?**

How explicit do we want to be about our position? Possible Text [cf Deanery Synod Election Campaign Pack]

General Synod Campaign 2015 are working together to create the most favourable circumstances for the election of laity to Deanery and General Synods. We seek laity who will represent the will of the majority of people in the Church of England being for inclusion and opposed to discrimination. This is a joint campaign bringing together some of the key organisations in the Church of England, working together against discrimination: Inclusive Church, Women and the Church (WATCH), Group for Rescinding the Act of Synod (GRAS), Modern Church, Changing Attitude, Affirming Catholicism and the Society of Catholic Priests (SCP).

Galatians 2:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”

Christian justice has biblical justification. Jesus was an inclusive person; he crossed social boundaries of race, gender, ethnicity, religion in his society and challenged the hypocritical hierarchy of established religion of his day. Recent examples of the General Synod’s decision show that they are far from inclusive.

For example, it is clear that the vast majority of the laity throughout the Church voted for women bishops and want a church that is generous, welcoming, inclusive and open. We also want to reach people outside the church who will not currently join us, and reach the many who have left because of discriminatory behaviour, which makes many of those who stay both upset and angry. Women and men, all have vocation and talents – the church needs to promote the best people for its shared mission.

* **What is the General Synod**

 A synopsis of the role of General Synod as a law maker and policy setter for the Church of England; who makes up the General Synod; when does it meet; what commitment is required

* **Why should I stand for election?**
* **What is the process of election?**
	+ A helpful guide to eligibility, nomination, writing election addresses, ballots, Single Transferrable Voting system
* **Election Timetable 2015**

 Key dates in the process

* **Improving my chances of being elected**

 Ideas for making local contacts using established networks and targeting Deanery Synod Members

* **Writing an Election Address**

 Worked examples of what to say and what to avoid

* **Resources – to use in emails, parish magazines, etc.**
* **Voting Guidance for Deanery Synod Members**

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