

Deanery Lay Chair – Role Description

Final – February 2021

Purpose

Under the leadership of the Bishop and together with the Area Dean, the role of the Lay Chair is to further the mission and ministry of the deanery. The Lay Chair will be a person of well-developed faith and spirituality with the skills and commitment to fill this important leadership role at deanery level. They will jointly chair the deanery synod with the Area Dean and beyond this work with the Area Dean on the transformation of our churches and the development of a clear strategy for each deanery. They will also work with the Area Dean in promoting team building amongst clergy and laity as part of the creation of new mission communities across the diocese.

Key Relationships

The Lay Chair is elected by representatives of the deanery synod on a triennial basis.

They will work closely with the Area Dean and other clergy and lay leaders in the deanery, as well as the Bishops and Archdeacon, bringing to the attention of the Bishop or Archdeacon as appropriate, any pastoral or other concerns they may have in relation to the deanery.

They will work closely with members of the Standing Committee of the deanery synod.

There will be close working with other Lay Chairs to ensure the consistent development and implementation of the diocese's strategy for growth and mission.

The Lay Chair is to be consulted as an interested party on all matters of pastoral reorganisation in the deanery in conjunction with the Area Dean.

Key Responsibilities

1. With the Area Dean, to ensure that the deanery synod is able to consider matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in their deanery, and to consider the express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest.
2. With the Area Dean, to bring together the views of the parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and inter-dependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
3. With the Area Dean, to ensure that practical arrangements for deanery synod meetings are put in place, including calling meetings of the deanery synod and determining the date, place and agenda of deanery synod meetings with the deanery standing committee.
4. To participate ex officio as a member of the committees of the deanery synod and with the Area Dean co-chair the standing committee and any other sub-committees of the deanery.
5. To participate at parish events and other key events in the life of the deanery including Archdeacons' visitations as appropriate.

6. To convene and chair occasional meetings of the House of Laity as appropriate.

Other

- Lay Chairs will be provided with support and development opportunities as part of the wider transformation programme of the diocese.
- Lay Chairs are reimbursed by the diocese for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.