**Purpose of role:**

Lay members of Deanery Synod, collectively known as the House of Laity, share with the House of Clergy in the task of development and conduct of the church’s mission in the deanery in general and the deanery mission plan in particular. This is in line with the diocesan vision of asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference and more justice in the world. Every Lay Deanery Synod member is elected as a parish ‘representative’ rather than a ‘delegate’. They play an important role in tending the relationship between Deanery Synod and the parishes or other groups they represent. As such they also share the responsibility with the Area Dean and Lay Chair of establishing active teamwork within Synod, which will be helped by the building of working relationships with other members across parish and group boundaries.

**Responsibilities:**

**General**

* Take your own journey with God seriously.
* Be responsible for your own health and safety.
* Comply with diocesan safeguarding policy.
* Undertake any training as required.
* Comply with General Data Protection Regulations.
* You must be legally allowed to be a trustee of a charity.

**Specific**

* Along with the Area Dean and Lay Chair, to support the development and implementation of the strategic direction (mission) of the deanery as expressed by the deanery mission plan, under the guidance of the Area Dean and Lay Chair.
* To act as an effective communication channel between Deanery Synod and the parish you have been elected to represent. This includes giving a report back to your PCC following each Deanery Synod meeting.
* To promote the development and outworking of the mission of God in the parish or other groups that you represent and using your experience in your parish as a means of encouraging and supporting other parishes in the Deanery.
* To read any papers before meetings, prayerfully consider points made, attend and make an active contribution to Deanery Synod meetings.
* To establish and maintain links with members from other parts of the Deanery, for mutual encouragement and to improve understanding of the challenges and needs facing the church in different places.
* To focus on people and right relationships, not buildings or structures.
* To act in a collaborative and mutually supportive way and supporting all the leaders of each parish, bringing prayer, encouragement and challenge as needed. This includes Clergy, Licensed Ministers, Readers, Wardens, Treasurers, Secretaries, Youth Workers, and others.
* To consider, if time allows, representing the Deanery on Diocesan Synod or one of its sub-committees that require Deanery representation, including Standing Committee and Mission & Pastoral Committee.

Members of Deanery Synod must be on the electoral roll of their own worship Community and are automatically members of the PCC. As such the role of a PCC Member will also apply.

**Commitment required:**

Wherever possible the post holder should attend all Deanery Synod and PCC meetings. Deanery Synod representatives will stay in post for a three year term. However, the post holder should always feel free to talk to the PCC Chair at any point to discuss adjusting or continuing in this role. This role is voluntary. Each Deanery Synod representative must sign a “fit and proper persons” declaration and be subject to an enhanced DBS check.