

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

To: Members of the Diocesan Synod

## **SCHEME OF REPRESENTATION FOR DEANERY SYNODS**

I am writing to members of the Synod to apologise for an error in the papers for the last Synod, and to inform you of a decision taken last night by the Bishop's Council in their role as Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod.

### **The error**

The error that arose in the papers for the last Diocesan Synod was that the table for Deanery Synod representation approved at the Diocesan Synod at the beginning of November was incorrect and not the version currently in use as Synod were informed.

### **How did this arise?**

This error arose as the Scheme for Representation approved by the Diocesan Synod in November 2022 did not end up being used. In December 2022 you were informed by the previous Diocesan Secretary that the approved scheme contained an error and a corrected version was used. In compiling the papers for this Synod, I assumed (perhaps not unreasonably!) that the scheme approved by Synod for the last triennium was used as there was nothing to the contrary in the Synod files and therefore used that scheme in the paper for the meeting rather than the one that has actually been in use.

### **The Standing Committee's decision.**

As an amendment to the scheme was proposed at the Synod, it provided evidence to the Standing Committee that the mind of Synod had been not to change the current scheme. They have therefore decided that given Diocesan Synod were misinformed that the table they were voting on was the one currently in use, that the approved table should be replaced by the one that is currently in use. The Diocesan Registrar has been consulted about the process.

The scheme that therefore will be used for the 2026 elections to Deanery Synods will be the one on the right - the one currently in use.

We will write out to Deanery Secretaries and to parishes within the next week or so to confirm the number of places for each parish for the 2026 elections at APCMs to Deanery Synods.

<b>SCHEME OF REPRESENTATION FOR 2026 PARISH ELECTIONS TO DEANERY SYNODS</b>	
<b>Number on electoral roll:</b>	<b>Number of lay representatives:</b>
1 – 25	1
26 – 50	2
51 – 100	3
101 – 200	4
201 – 300	5
301 – 500	6
501 – 700	7
701 – 900	8
901 – 1,100	9
1,101 plus	10

I would again like to apologise to members of the Synod for this error. You can be assured that we have made notes in the file for November 2028 to avoid the error repeating itself.

John Preston  
Diocesan Secretary  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2025