

Harbour Church Lay Representation on Portsmouth Deanery Synod

Our 'Live, Pray, Serve' strategy underpins the Bishop's Mission Order of 1 September 2016 which provides for the creation of Harbour Church, to work in co-operation with the parishes of Portsea, St Mary; Portsea, St George; Portsea, All Saints; Southsea, St Luke and St Peter; Portsea, St Alban; and the Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Portsmouth, in promoting in the parishes the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Harbour Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) separately registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. It nevertheless subscribes fully to the mission and charitable objects of the Church of England.

Because Harbour Church is not a parish, while the licensed clergy at Harbour are automatically (as with all licensed clergy under the Church Representation Rules) members of the Deanery Synod, lay members of Harbour do not qualify to serve as or to elect lay representatives to the Portsmouth Deanery Synod.

For Harbour Church to be enabled to play its full part in the life of Portsmouth Deanery Bishop Christopher has taken advice from the Bishop's Council, which also serves as the Mission and Pastoral Advisory Committee, and proposes to Diocesan Synod that lay representation on Portsmouth Deanery Synod from Harbour Church be provided for initially by allowing for 2 lay representatives to be elected in a way that seems appropriate to Harbour Church, Portsmouth CIO. It is further proposed that these lay representatives shall have all rights and duties of lay deanery synod members elected by parishes.

Such a scheme is provided for by Rule 27A of the Church Representation Rules:

Representation of persons to whom mission orders relate

27A. (1) Any diocesan synod may, at the request of the bishop or bishops who has or have made a bishop's mission order under section 47 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 which is in force, provide by scheme for representation on such deanery synod as may be determined by or under the scheme of such persons to whom the order relates as may be specified in or under the scheme.

Diocesan Synod is therefore formally requested by Bishop Christopher to approve and adopt this scheme to provide for representation of Harbour Church on Portsmouth Deanery Synod by 2 lay members, to be elected from and by the laity of Harbour Church.

Bishop Christopher will move the following motion:

'This Synod approves and adopts the scheme proposed by the Bishop of Portsmouth to provide for the election of 2 lay members to Portsmouth Deanery Synod from and by the laity of Harbour Church, election to be conducted in such manner as deemed appropriate by Harbour Church, Portsmouth CIO'.

Wendy Kennedy
Diocesan Secretary