**Item 7 (LAITY)**

(Your address)

Tel:

e-mail:

x May 2021

TO ALL LAITY MEMBERS OF …………….. DEANERY SYNOD

Dear

**DIOCESAN SYNOD ELECTIONS 2021**

You will be aware that elections take place this year for representatives from the deanery to serve on the diocesan synod for a three-year term from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2024.

As Rural Dean of the deanery synod, I have been appointed as presiding officer for the House of Laity election.

I enclose the formal notice of the election, together with a nomination form. More forms can be obtained from me if needed, or if you spoil a form. You will note that I must receive completed nomination forms by post, no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 8thJune 2021. ***[Please note that the rules do not currently allow nomination forms to be returned by e-mail.]***

Rule 40(4) of the Church Representation Rules enables a candidate to submit, with his or her nomination form, a factual statement (of no more than 100 words) setting out his/her “professional qualifications, present office and any relevant past experience.” If there is a contested election, any such statement will be circulated with the voting papers.

You will note that candidates must be nominated and seconded by qualified electors. We realise that due to current government restrictions, it is likely to be very difficult to ensure the signatures of the proposer, the seconder and the candidate can all be captured on the one nomination form. For this year, three separate forms with the separate signatures per nomination will be accepted, as long as they reach the diocesan office by the deadline (8 June). Once received, they will then be collated together.

I will supply a copy of the list of qualified electors on request.

Unless you are elected to one of the synod committees, the commitment is (usually) three meetings a year, on Saturdays in March, June and October. These meetings are generally held in Ipswich or at the Cathedral, start at 9.00am and end by 1.00pm.

Although the minimum commitment is to attend the meetings of the diocesan synod (and those elected will also become ex-officio members of their local deanery synod and PCC), those elected who have relevant qualifications, interests or experience are encouraged to consider putting themselves forward for election to one of the diocesan committees. Details of these elections will be circulated to the newly-elected diocesan synod members in early August.

If there is a contested election, I shall send ballot papers to the qualified electors on 15th June 2021, to be returned to me by 6th July 2021.

Yours sincerely

**……………………………**

Presiding Officer

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Election
2. Form of Nomination
3. List of qualified electors