



How is the Church of Ireland Governed?

PARISH LEVEL:

Each parish will have a register of **General Vestry members** who must be over 18 years and be part of the parish. This General Vestry must meet once per year at Easter time at a meeting called the Easter Vestry. There they will elect a Select Vestry of up to 12 members with an additionally elected **Glebe Warden** and **Churchwarden**. The Rector will also appoint a Glebe Warden and Churchwarden.

The **Select Vestry** is responsible for providing all that is needed for the worship and work of the parish. This usually means control of the finance, buildings and furniture (or furnishings, fabric and finance – the 3 'Fs'). The Churchwardens are responsible for keeping control of the church service and collecting the offering. Glebe Wardens are responsible for the care and management of any church property and land.

Every third year the parish also elects people to the Diocesan Synod and also Parochial nominators who will help appoint a new Rector if there is a vacancy.

DIOCESAN LEVEL: WHOLE CHURCH:

The Diocese meets at a **Diocesan Synod** which consists of the Bishop, clergy and between 2 and 5 lay (non-clergy) representatives from each parish for each clergy person. The Synod meets once a year and looks after the 3 'Fs' for the diocese. It can also form various committees to work on its behalf and elects a council to manage its day-to-day work

Diocesan Synod will elect representatives to the General Synod.

The whole church is represented by the **General Synod**. It has 2 'Houses', a House of Bishops (12 in all from each diocese) and a House of Representatives drawn from every diocese with 2 laity for each clergy. The General Synod can make laws that affect the whole church. It is the only body that can alter the worship or doctrine (beliefs) of the Church of Ireland or express its opinion.

From the General Synod a Standing Committee is elected to administer its affairs on a day-to-day basis and a Representative Church Body is formed to control the finances of the central church and to hold property for the Church of Ireland.

General Vestry

Select Vestry



Diocesan Synod



Parochial Nominators



General Synod

