



Julie Burrows (Kendal Deanery)

Answers to

Questions to candidates for General Synod House of Laity 2026

Q1. Do you fully support the equality of women at all levels of ministry, including ordained and episcopal ministry?

My theological conviction of the Bible's teaching is that men and women are equal before God in worth, dignity, standing and salvation, but are given by Him distinct roles in His church. As part of the 2014 General Synod legislation removing male and female distinctions in relation to ministry, the House of Bishops agreed a Declaration to sustain the diversity of the Church and the mutual flourishing of its constituent parts. I fully support the outworking of the Five Guiding Principles in that Declaration, which were endorsed by General Synod and which continue to assure complementarians that we are as welcome in the church as egalitarians.

Q2. In July the General Synod was asked to "affirm that all baptised, believing and faithful persons regardless of sexual orientation are full members of the Body of Christ" and that "recognise a legitimate range of theological perspectives, held in good conscience, across the Church of England, on the right ordering of committed, faithful, intimate same-sex relationships". If you were on Synod, did you vote in favour of this. If you were not on Synod, how would you have voted?

I was not on Synod in July 2026. If I had been, I might have abstained as I find the wording open to various interpretations. The House of Bishops voted against it, and since I agree with the Theological Vision put forward by and on behalf of a significant grouping of Bishops in February 2024, as available [here](#), I would most likely have voted against it too.

Q3. Parish share is intended to support all churches across the diocese. Has your church ever applied restrictions on who can benefit from receiving parish share, for example through making use of the Ephesians Fund to prevent your contribution supporting the majority of clergy in the diocese?

The Carlisle 'Offer' system is the local church making a voluntary contribution to the Diocese to fund local mission and ministry across the county. The system recognises the two principles of generosity (God's then ours in response) and realism (true costs of ministry and affordable for the parish).

I voted in my PCC to use the Ephesian Fund as the conduit for our parish's Offer for 3 reasons:

- *to safeguard the continued generous giving to our Ministry Offer of the parishioners whose conscience, faith and theological convictions align with the Church's existing teaching and doctrine;*
- *to help the Diocese support ministry that defends that teaching and doctrine; and*
- *to reduce the risk of faithful congregants leaving the CofE.*

Q4. To what extent do you consider the decreasing number of stipendiary clergy and increasing lay-led congregations to be an issue that needs addressing across the Church of England?

It is a huge issue which I hope will be addressed in part by electing to Synod those such as me who are aligned to the Save the Parish Manifesto, which prioritises restoring Church Commissioners' funds to stipendiary parish ministry and directing the parish share to mission and the cure of souls led by ordained clergy.



Julie Burrows (Kendal Deanery)

Answers to

Questions to candidates for General Synod House of Laity 2026

Q5. Do you agree that the Church should commit fully to training and ordaining local leaders as self supporting priests?

The CofE needs a large number of new ordained ministers, both stipendiary and self-supporting, and it must do all it can, nationally and locally, to select, train and ordain them.

Q6. What do you consider to be the Church of England's priorities for the next 5 years?

I consider that the Church of England's priorities for the next 5 years should reflect the Great Commission in Matthew 28. So the central bodies' priorities should be almost solely to facilitate effective parish ministry:

- *Make new disciples*
 - *Love our neighbours, and Evangelise*
- *Build up disciples*
 - *Prioritise Sunday worship, Bible reading and prayer*
- *Entrust discipling*
 - *Encourage and train ordained leaders, and for every church member to minister with the gifts God has given them*

Q7. Do you feel that the Bible's teaching on sexuality and marriage is still relevant for the Church in 2026?

Yes. The Marriage Service liturgy beautifully reflects why: "The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are born and nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love."

Our inherited faith in the risen Christ offers the hope that so many in our society crave as a radical alternative to what the surrounding culture offers.

Q8. What are your views in taking forward the Living in Love & Faith (LLF) process, which appears to have come to a natural ending?

As a Church we want to continue warmly to welcome everyone irrespective of any human difference, including sexuality, and repudiate any homophobia. I know several individuals who have experienced more closely than I the pain and heartache that LLF discussions have created thus far, which makes it all the more important that any further proposals for change are introduced sensitively, and follow the highest standards of transparent and lawful constitutional process. My prayer is that I can be gracious and generous, as I work to strengthen the church's confidence in and obedience to the teaching of our Lord and Saviour.



Julie Burrows (Kendal Deanery)

Answers to

Questions to candidates for General Synod House of Laity 2026

Q9. What personal qualities do you have that you feel are suitable for serving on General Synod for the next 5 years?

In my Election Address I mention these:

- *Wide experience of different parishes across the church of England*
- *Professional legal and financial competence - an eye for detail*
- *Vision for the different generations in our churches*
- *Ability to absorb and identify key issues in voluminous paperwork*
- *Diverse legislative and regulatory experience*
- *A completer-finisher (a terrier-like commitment to things that matter)*

I should also add:

- *Living faith and prayerful dependence that this is Christ's church not ours*
- *A deep love for my villages, this diocese of Carlisle and the north-west region*
- *Lively disposition, broad smile and a sense of humour!*

Electors are more than welcome to contact me (see my Address) to test any of these!