

Questions to candidates for General Synod House of Laity

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

All are equal in the sight of God. The authorities that exist are established by Him, and I support them in obedience to God.

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 the Synod, and would not have voted for this as it is unclear as to its purpose in separating out a particular issue.

I understand that all baptised, believing and faithful people are members of the body of Christ.

Had I heard the discussion, I may have considered supporting the following: "to affirm that all baptised, believing and faithful persons 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."

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?

This was considered by our PCC but we decided not to do so.

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?

I'm not sure I would call it an issue. The numbers will depend on each person's clear calling to ministry. The power of Spirit led prayer in each church and diocese is drawing people to Alpha Courses and to courses exploring Christian Calling. Where this is underway it needs to be encouraged by prayer and support.

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

Ordination is a big decision, even for those who have a clear calling from the Lord.

If some are willing and able to be self-supporting, God will provide for them, but it may well feel precarious at times. The training would need to help them "trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding."

Paid ministers have a high degree of responsibility to follow legal church requirements, so in order to develop the self-supporting role, there may be a need for a second tier of responsibility.

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

*It is clear **WHAT** our priorities are:*

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind*
- Love your neighbour as yourself.*
- Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*

*However it is for us to work out **HOW?** we do this, sometimes slowly and painfully. Every action and decision to be taken based on prayer, the Bible, the teachings of Jesus, or it will eventually fail.*

*A **HOW?** practical priority might be to remove administration work from the clergy and other ministers so they can spend their time with people with central admin hubs in each deanery to do the parishes' day to day work. This would free up ministers - both clergy and laity - to carry out the **WHAT** - **the pastoring, and the teaching.***

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

The Bible's teaching on all matters is relevant. I may struggle to understand some of it but I believe it is the revealed Word of God, written by 40+ writers, with the Holy Spirit of God as the author and editor. Over hundreds of years, many faithful people have studied, translated, and even died (Wycliffe, Tyndale, et al) to enable access to the Word for all people in the world. It is to be treated with reverence and awe.

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

There seem to be no rational or scriptural grounds for taking this forward.

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

I enjoy being with and working with people, and for 11 years managed a team of 20 men and women working on a farm business and environmental programme.

I hope I have a logical mind, via practical farming and a scientific grounding.

In 40 years as a Christian, I have fallen over, got up again, learned many lessons. Though not exactly a personal quality - I truly believe in salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

And I'm a Grandma!