

6. **General Synod members are representatives rather than delegates, so you are not mandated to vote in a particular way, but if a Diocesan Synod motion made clear the will of the Diocese on a particular point, would you expect to vote that way even if that does not equate with your personal views?**

If I were elected as your General Synod member I would attend those Synods as your representative and therefore it would be important for me to listen to the debate both at Diocesan Synod and at General Synod. It is vital that a person who is elected is both informed and informing about the issues facing the church. I believe that electors in Salisbury Diocese are looking for someone who will be engaging with the debates that take place at General Synod and in the wider church. I would then vote according to my conscience. **(Peter Breckwoldt)**

I think electors would expect General Synod members to vote in accordance with their conscience. It would be very undesirable if individuals were put under pressure to vote against their conscience.

That said, we had an example in 2012 (the Ordination of Women to the Episcopate) of the kind of difficulty that arises when General Synod is not able to vote in a way that reflects the mind of the wider Church. In 2014 some people who could not themselves support the principle of women bishops chose to abstain in the final vote in order to avoid further damage to the Church. That struck me as an honest and responsible course of action. In a similar situation, if the Diocese had reached a decision that I could not in conscience support, I would consider abstaining.

As a general rule I think it is a responsibility of electors to ensure that you are fully informed about the beliefs and allegiances of those of us who are standing for Synod. This will help you determine whether we are likely to vote in accordance with the views and needs of the Diocese you are electing us to represent. **(Jane Charman)**

Depends on the particular point, and whether it is lawful and right to do so. **(Tim Gomm)**

I would wish to make myself aware of the will of the Diocesan Synod and of the reasons and arguments leading to members voting in a particular way. However, in General Synod, I would **always** vote in accordance with my own conscience. On rare occasions, my conscience could lead me to abstain. **(John Hawthorne)**

As an elected Clergy Proctor for the Diocese, I would expect to take any motion passed by the Diocesan Synod to the General Synod, and present the motion in due course. I would have made my own views on any particular topic clear at the Diocesan Synod debate. I cannot imagine a particular Diocesan Synod motion that I could not support, but if in conscience I could not support the Diocesan Synod motion, I would make that clear at the Synod debate. **(Alan Jeans)**

As in parliament, it is my belief that on matters of conscience and doctrine, General Synod representatives should be given freedom to vote based on their election addresses. **(Chris Tebbutt)**

I would not see my role on Synod as being defending or protecting my own views on any particular matter. It is important that as elected representative we carry forward the clear will of the Diocese. However, should a situation emerge where the 'clear will of the Diocese' did not equate with my own personal views or conscience I sincerely hope that I would find the appropriate way of having a conversation with my Diocesan General Synod representatives to talk it through to enable me to vote with integrity, whilst honouring the 'will of the Diocese.' **(Jonathan Triffitt)**

I will listen to the views of our Diocesan Synod and expect new insights to inform my contributions to General Synod. I would be surprised if my personal views differed greatly from the common mind of our Diocesan Synod. **(Thomas Woodhouse)**