

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?**

As the question rightly states Synod members are representatives. Thus I see that it is important that all significant needs within the diocese are brought to the General Synod when appropriate. Fortunately in recent years the members of this diocese have met before the General Synod and shared what those needs were and how they might be presented at the General Synod. Thus one has been able to see whether a valid body of interest in the diocese that was not given prominence at a diocesan synod is being neglected, particularly when it is of interest to other dioceses. Incidentally General Synod lay members are elected by Deanery Synod members not the Diocesan Synod. **(Paul Boyd-Lee)**

This is not a decision I would ever take lightly. I am committed to truly and honestly representing the voices of the Diocese, and thus if these voices were unanimous in their view on a particular issue I would of course take this in to account. In the event that this view did not align with my own, this is a matter I would lay before God in prayer. Ultimately, if I felt that voting a certain way would compromise my values and prayer did not offer a resolution, I would have to make a difficult decision. **(Fenella Cannings-Jurd)**

I would have to think very carefully and pray in such a situation (which I suspect would be quite rare) but I would probably have to vote according to my own conscience in the end. During the past 5 years on Synod I have had a couple of occasions where I have prayed during a debate as I was so uncertain as to which way to vote. So it can sometimes go right to the wire. **(Chris Corteen)**

I feel I have expressed my personal views in my election address and in these questions; so if I am elected to represent the diocese, I would have a mandate to pursue these. However, I would be willing to listen to other points of view and discuss these, before voting on any issue. **(Gill de Berry)**

Yes, I believe I am there to represent the views of Diocesan synod and not my own personal views. **(Richard Jones)**

My immediate reaction is 'I would vote according to my personal views/conscience.' The reality of synod work is one of involvements, relationships, teamwork, committees and debates so as to arrive at a consensus and to get things done. It means that compromise often has to be practised or impasse occurs stymieing any growth and change. There are however key issue that arise where one must think, pray and think and pray again and only then vote according to your personal views. If such a situation should arise, I would of course explain my intent to my fellow representatives, clergy and bishops included, pre the synod vote and to the diocesan synod, if asked, post the event. **(Keith Leslie)**

I believe it is vital to the health of the Church to be accountable to the electorate. With this in mind, the view of a clear majority of the members of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod (or Deanery Synods) would very important, although as a representative rather than a delegate, I cannot bind myself in advance. There is always the option to abstain. **(Debbie Mclsaac)**

I would prayerfully consider the decision of the Diocesan Synod, and if this conflicted with what I discerned to be God's guidance to me, I would either vote contrary to the Diocesan Synod view or abstain, depending on the circumstances. **(Doreen Riley)**

I would have to consider my position. Naturally I would prefer to vote in line with the motion but would have to examine my conscience and vote accordingly, or choose to abstain. **(Paul Taylor)**