

General Synod Election Address for

The Reverend Canon Jane Charman

Diocese of Salisbury

Proposer: The Revd Canon Paul Richardson

Seconder: The Revd Jonathan Triffitt



Having served on General Synod for the past five years I am now standing for a second term. Synod is a complex environment with a great deal of procedural detail to get one's head around and it takes time to discover how best to engage and contribute. I hope the experience I have gained so far would enable me to be a useful Synod member and effective representative and spokesperson for the Diocese of Salisbury over the coming five years. With the majority of former Salisbury representatives now standing down you may feel that some continuity would be desirable alongside some 'new blood'.

I trained at Westcott House in the 1980s and have been in full time stipendiary ministry for 30 years, first as a licensed lay worker, then as a deacon for 7 years and now as a priest. I served my curacy in a UPA parish in Gloucester, took up a second post as Chaplain of Clare College, Cambridge, and went on to be a rural incumbent and Rural Dean in the Diocese of Ely. I have been in my present post as Diocesan Director of Ministry for 11 years. I am married to Bill, a minister in secular employment who is licensed to the Forest and Avon Team and has recently become the Bishop's Adviser for Associate Ministry. We have two daughters, Matilda (18) and Trelawny (14). I believe my varied experience of ministry in parish, sector and diocesan posts gives me a balanced perspective on the opportunities and challenges we are currently facing. I love the Church of England and long to see it fulfill its vocation in mission and ministry to our nation.

During the last five years I attended every group of sessions and contributed to several different areas of the General Synod's work. I played an active part in discussions around synodical reform with a view to making Synod more directly representative of the wider Church. I pressed for greater transparency and theological engagement around the selection and training of senior church leaders. Following the defeat of the women bishops legislation in November 2012 I was invited to serve on the Women in the Episcopate Steering Group which prepared the new legislation and successfully piloted it through Synod. In May this year I was delighted to be the Church of England's delegate to the Church of Scotland General Assembly where I learned a great deal about ecumenical relations with

the Church of Scotland and made some warm personal contacts. The two churches are currently moving towards a formal agreement and a proposal is likely to come before the Synod for approval in 2016.

Looking ahead to the next five years, the 'Reform and Renewal' agenda will be a priority for General Synod, focusing on vocation, discipleship, formation for ministry both lay and ordained and continuing ministerial development including for senior leadership roles. As Director of Ministry I am responsible to the bishops and to you for our Diocesan provision in these areas and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the national discussion. Synod is also due to receive a progress update on the report of the Mission and Public Affairs Council 'Released For Mission: Growing the Rural Church'. This is particularly relevant to the Diocese of Salisbury where the Ministry team is already working on new initiatives to resource and support rural ministry. Further thinking on human sexuality is currently in progress through a series of facilitated conversations involving representatives from all Dioceses. We don't yet know whether these conversations will result in a motion to Synod or what form that might take but you may wish to know the views of those who are standing for election this time. My hope is that in coming years the Church will become more understanding and accepting of the diversity of our human sexuality. I recognize that this as a subject upon which Christians hold prayerful and principled differences of opinion and my experience of working on the women bishops legislation has convinced me of the importance of gracious disagreement as we discern God's will together.

I would count it a privilege to continue to represent you on General Synod and if elected will again carry out my duties to the best of my ability. I hope you will feel able to vote for me, or if there is anything you would like to discuss with me before deciding please feel very welcome to get in touch.

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