



**REPRESENTATIVE OF SALISBURY DIOCESE IN THE HOUSE OF LAITY OF
GENERAL SYNOD 2015-2020**

ELECTION ADDRESS OF CHRIS CORTEEN

Personal

I am 58 years old, divorced and single, and have lived in Wool in the Purbeck Deanery for the past 25 years. I gave my life to the Lord when I was 16.

I have recently retired from working as a full time Finance Manager at Poole Borough Council. As part of my discipleship I was open about my faith at work. I set up prayer and bible study groups which allowed Christians at work to meet during the lunchtimes.

Local

In my parish I take an active part in a Fresh Expressions Café Service held once a month which we call 'Revive!' and which is held in the local school on Sunday afternoons.

Since retiring I am very keen to get involved in volunteering. So I help out with our community library, help run a community room in Bovington and help with fund raising for a new village hall in a neighbouring village.. It seems important to me that members of local churches join in where God is working in our communities.

Diocese

As the new Chair of the House of Laity of Diocesan Synod for the next 3 years I will want to be an active voice for the lay people in our Diocese who give so much of their time in their local context. I will be keen to press for the Diocese to recognise lay ministry (not just licensed) by providing a forum to come together similar to a

clergy day/conference in order. This would help us to explore and discern our discipleship and ministry in partnership with our clergy so that the Gospel can most effectively be proclaimed across our Diocese and beyond by the whole people of God.

As a possible Member of General Synod

Having had the privilege of serving on General Synod for the past 5 years and voting in favour of the women bishops legislation I am seeking election for another 5 year term. The main thrust for the Church of England over the next 5 years will be the Reform and Renewal programme. This will be looking at resourcing future ministry both lay and ordained, the importance of discipleship, nurturing future leaders and simplifying how we work within the legal framework as the Established Church.

I will be keen to feedback suggestions for making life easier for PCC's in some of the more legalistic areas that they have to deal with. In addition I will want to speak on the importance of committed personal discipleship and how this is sustained, recognised, formed, enabled and encouraged across our Church and in our own Diocese and parishes. I believe that if discipleship is at the heart of what we do then outreach and finances will fall into place.

It is right that the Church of England speaks out for the wider Church and should also have a voice in the political arena. In this regard the issue of human sexuality will be a crucial area for discussion and decisions over the next 5 years and beyond. We are a broad Church and I hope that this will continue. But I appreciate that there are difficulties ahead. It will be important for all sides to listen to each other and to continue to pray together.

Representing and promoting the Salisbury Diocese as being mission focused and committed to developing the discipleship of all God's people in the building of His Kingdom would be an exciting prospect.

I would consider it a privilege to continue to serve God through the work of His Church as a member of General Synod. I will pray that I may be open to be led by the Holy Spirit in that work.

CC/280715

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