

Questions to Candidates

On previous occasions, those entitled to vote in the General Synod election have been able to engage candidates face-to-face at hustings. However, during recent elections, the number of candidates and electors attending these events has diminished dramatically. At the same time, electronic media make it much easier to raise questions through email, websites, Twitter, Facebook and in other ways.

We have encouraged voters to pose questions which can be put to candidates collectively. The questions set out below are generic in nature, but based on those I have received.

If you would like to engage in this question and answer process, please enter your replies in the space provided after each question. I reserve the right to remove any response which might reasonably be considered offensive or prejudicial (though I do not expect that I shall need to do so).

A word limit has been set for your replies of **120 words per question**. Additional words will be cut from the final submission but you could, of course, give a shorter answer and invite anyone who wishes to discuss further with you to send supplementary comments to your email address (remembering, of course, to give it!).

Please return your completed form to jrees@wslaw.co.uk and copied to sleader@wslaw.co.uk, by **9.00 am on Monday 28 September 2015**. Your submissions will be posted on the Diocesan website, with your Election Address and Video Presentation/photograph, on Wednesday 30 September at 5.00 pm.

Canon John Rees
Presiding Officer for General Synod Election
September 2015

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	Graham Colin Caskie
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Questions and Replies

Question:	Given there are such strongly held differing views on the issue of human sexuality in our Church, how do you think the Church of England should approach the issue in the next five years?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	Despite the intense pain and disappointment felt by many, the Church of England should not depart from its current Biblical position. As a church, we must be there to minister to all regardless of their lifestyle. We are there to share the love that

	<p>comes from God to all. Yet despite modern culture’s invitation for us to change, I do not believe it is our right to choose what God has set down for us in Scripture.</p> <p>I trust that a position of Grace will be adopted in the conversations we have ahead of us. Realising the intense sensitivities and pain felt by many on this subject.</p>
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<p>Question:</p>	<p>What role, if any, do you think the Church of England and its partner churches in the Anglican Communion might play in response to the world’s current needs?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>There are many organisations that provide physical assistance to those in the world in need. I am proud that as a church we are involved heavily in that work which needs to continue, if not increase.</p> <p>Yet, apart from the church (and particularly one as global as our Communion) who else is there to make people aware of the spiritual healing that comes from faith in Jesus Christ? Who else can share the inextinguishable joy and hope that comes through trusting in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?</p> <p>We can do much to serve the world physically, yet spiritually few others are in a better position than us to serve that way.</p>

<p>Question:</p>	<p>Do you think the ministry of the Church of England might need to change in the coming years, and, if so, what changes would you support in the selection and training of its lay and ordained leadership?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>In our church, there can be a tendency for the clergy to be seen as the important people. The ones who actually do “ministry”. Yet what I would argue for is a transformation in attitudes toward the vast bulk of our church, the laity. Only when we have a laity that is valued, trained and inspired to further the Gospel will we as a church flourish.</p> <p>Yet following from this, it is vital to have a rigorous assessment and thorough training for those we place in church leadership. To water this down would hinder both the clergy and laity they seek to serve through leadership.</p>