

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)	Ms Jayne Ozanne
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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	As Director of Accepting Evangelicals, I believe it is paramount that we learn to recognise the Christ in each other, and accept that we have widely different views on this issue. The Shared Conversations are enabling us to engage with compassion and respect with each other, but they are insufficient to bring us to a

	place of unity. As shown in my <i>Good Disagreement</i> discussion group, people often enter the debate ready to “make a last stand” rather than looking to discover how we might unite together in our call to mission. Would that we could be courageously honest about the fruits that we see in faithful, committed same-sex relationships and apologise for the pain that our doctrine has caused.
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Question:	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?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	The Church is called to be a prophetic voice and a faithful witness to the unfailing love of God in a world that is desperate for truth and grace. As such we need to be able to find a way to be the voice of conscience in our core global debates – such as the widening inequality gap, the abuse of power and the pillaging of our environment; whilst also being Christ to those who are marginalised by these global systems – the vulnerable, the poor, the dispossessed and oppressed. To be effective, however, we need to command the respect of those who we hope will listen – which in turn requires us to be valued as an honest, genuine and non-hypocritical ally.

Question:	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?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	Given the increasingly demanding missiological task we face and the diminishing levels of resources to meet this need, there will need to be significant changes in the way we approach ministry. I believe that God has graciously gifted us with everything we need to complete the task He assigns us – our challenge as always is to recognise these gifts, and use them wisely. Key to this will be a loosening of tight structures, so that we can become a more flexible and responsive Church. We need to be lighter and swifter in the way we operate – less encumbered by our past, and open to the fact that God calls us <i>all</i> to be salt and light in a broken world.