

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)	Rev'd Kate Elizabeth Stacey
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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	Sensitively. To one another, and especially to those whom have been damaged by the churches attitude and behaviour towards them based on their sexuality. We must listen carefully to one another, to the witness of the scriptures and most importantly to

	<p>the Spirit of God who calls each as beloved children.</p> <p>Our beautiful church is seen as a 'toxic brand' by so many in our society; not least the friends of my teenage children. I hope we can learn from the mistakes of our previous disagreements and carefully and purposefully move from the battle field to the mission field, committed to God's priorities.</p>
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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	Our call is to be Good News to the ends of the earth. Disciples of Jesus must respond to the needs of the world. In the lectionary over the last weeks we have been challenged again by James' reminder that faith without works is dead. I think the church should be leading the way in hospitality and generosity towards those who have been forced to flee their homes, use her prophetic voice to bring God's perspective to economic and environmental issues, and demonstrate the deep shalom of Christ in our dealings with those who think radically differently from us. Of course, this only happens when each member of the body of Christ is enabled to speak and act.

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	Ministry has always been changing and evolving as we seek to proclaim the love of God afresh in each generation. I would love to see us recognise the ministry of all believers in our structures, training and finance. Challenges for the next five years include hard work to reduce the church's reliance on stipendiary clergy, equipping laypeople to lead in ways God has gifted them to and allowing God to shape ministry through the people and gifts that constitute her. There remains a suspicion amongst laypeople that any formal ministry is simply seen as a stepping-stone to 'proper' [ordained] ministry. We need to grapple with how we get beyond this whilst maintaining the identity and orthodoxy of the church.