

General Synod Election 2021 Address for:



The Venerable Alan Jeans MBE
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Proposed by: The Rev'd Canon Eleanor Rance Seconded by: The Rev'd Canon David Baldwin

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a privilege to serve the clergy of the Diocese of Salisbury as a member of the General Synod from 2000-2005 & 2010 – 2021. During that time we saw some historic decisions taken as the Church of England sought to redefine its sense of purpose and direction across the villages, towns and cities of England. During those sessions I listened to clergy and laity across the Diocese and ...

- voted in favour of the Ordination of Women as Bishops
- worked for the reform of Faculty Jurisdiction
- spoke in debates to raise concerns from the Diocese of Salisbury, including the situation in the Sudan & South Sudan
- presented legislation changes to reform miscellaneous changes to our governance
- supported issues around Clergy Terms of Service, social justice and the environment.

In the next General Synod, we are likely to be debating Human Sexuality, [I'm the Diocesan Advocate for Living in Love and Faith]; funding of the church in the future; new patterns of mission and ministry; State and Church relationships; making the CofE Carbon net-zero by 2030 and more! The remuneration and pensions provisions for clergy need to be reviewed; the Clergy Discipline Measure needs reform; and our commitment to Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults requires delivery at all levels.

I would be honoured to serve again in the General Synod House of Clergy, and I would therefore please ask you for your first vote on the ballot paper.

I stand as a fellow priest who has ministered for 32 years in the Diocese – serving in both urban and rural parishes, Dorset and Wiltshire, and the Cathedral Church. As a member of the Bishop's Staff, I'm acutely aware of the current demands on clergy due to our financial challenges, and the impact that has on future planning for a sustainable budget. I'm trying to manage the pressure to reduce the numbers of stipendiary clergy, and also the growing ministry workloads of ever-increasing benefice sizes.

The General Synod continues to seek “simplification” of bureaucracy, and I’m supporting better resources to enable ministry to flourish in every community.

I stand as someone who remains committed to the education and development of the whole people of God, believing that God wants to see his people grow fully into their own humanity and set free to discover all his gifts. I have experience as a Parish Development Advisor, Director of Ordinands, former Chair the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Council – growing Christian Disciples active in the wider community is a passion in my ministry.

I stand as someone who believes in the centrality of the Gospel and has always valued integrity and a generosity of spirit both in worship and relationships. My ministry as an Archdeacon has sought to see each congregation and each of our Church Schools grow, each in their own distinctive tradition, with respect, Christian love, trust and confidence. I am excited about seeing a “mixed economy” of traditional congregations and new forms of church, welcoming all into knowing a God who loves them in his son, Jesus Christ.

I offer you the willingness to really listen to your hopes and concerns; drawing experience from the patterns of mission and ministry of our Diocese; the valuable experience of Synodical governance; and the tenacity to stand and speak in debates. I would work towards creating a church which is generous, welcoming, inclusive and open. I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.

I ask for your first preferred vote and if elected I would seek to represent you on the General Synod according to the above principles.

Thank you for reading this address. If you have any questions, please contact me using the details above.

With my thanks and prayers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan James". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.