

Richard Jones

My family are the main focus in my life, I have been married to my wife Susan (a retired NHS nurse) for 40 years. We have two adult children, and two grandchildren. We remain a close-knit family unit and I am delighted to say I have my family's full backing in my decision to run again for General Synod.

In my work life, I have worked within the historic building conservation sector for over 40 years, working as a self-employed building conservator.

Being self-employed I manage my own time which gives me the ability to commit to the time table of meetings required by the General Synod.



Away from work my passion is travel and architecture with a special interest in late medieval churches, family monuments and their associated heraldry. I have been researching heraldry for the last 40 years and have written several articles and papers for various publications and societies.

I have taken a leading role within my church (Christ Church, East Stour, Gillingham, Dorset) since moving to the area with my family over twenty-five years ago. I have held the post of Churchwarden for over 20 years, and I am a Lay Worship leader in the Stour Vale Benefice. I am a member of Deanery and Diocesan Synod and a member of the Reuse of Redundant Churches Committee. I have served at General Synod for the last quinquennium.

Through these roles I have gained a valuable insight and knowledge into the workings of the church and the experience and skills required in order to research areas and make recommendations and decisions that affect not only members of my own parish but those further afield.

Personally, I am a supporter of both Common Worship and the more traditional BCP and believe that the two can be mutually supportive in parish worship. I do not believe any particular party label fits me. I am a strong believer in the Bible and the Church of England. I make my decisions based on evidence and the conscience, given to me, by God.

I am a supporter of 'Save the Parish' campaign, personally concentrating on rural parishes. I serve a small parish in the heart of Dorset and we, like many, are hanging on by a thread. Congregations are ageing, many on fixed or low incomes and parish expenditure is forever increasing.

Currently congregations may dwindle and parish churches lost but with the amount of new development and housing in many areas this could change, if so, where then is the parish church and spiritual support? This cannot be solved by the creation of 'super deaneries' rather than individual parishes. Parishes are the 'bedrock' of the Church of England.

I believe that it is vital that parishes continue to exist, properly supported financially, without fear of losing their Clergy if they cannot pay share.

Daily we hear about the damage people have done to the planet through negligence and greed and I feel it is our Christian duty to care for the planet and the environment. During the last session of synod, Bishop Nicholas of Salisbury was the lead Bishop on environmental issues, lobbying government and encouraging us all to care more. I would like to see synod continue to lobby on such environmental issues, acting as a collective Christian voice to protect God's creation and its people.

During the last session of synod, I voted in favour of:

The Cathedral measures for improved Governance; Church of England - Methodist Conversation;

Clergy wellbeing; Closer links with the Deanery of Jersey and Guernsey; improvements to the Clergy Disciplinary Measure; and supported the Bishop of St Alban's call on the Government to protect vulnerable people from the effects of Gambling.

I would very much like to continue to serve the people of the Diocese of Salisbury as a member of General Synod and I hope you can support my re-election. I thank you for your time in reading this address and your concerns for the future of the Church of England in this wonderful area of the country.

With God's Blessings,

Richard

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8 September 2021

Re Richard Jones

I have had the pleasure of working with Richard as a colleague since he was elected to the General Synod in a by-election.

I say pleasure because not only could he be relied upon to actually be present at debates but also to take sufficient interest in the business in hand rather than just voting a party line without considering the large amount of paperwork available to us as background material. Thus he has been a good information source.

I think he has firm views on how to apply his Christian, particularly biblical experience, in a setting which has national implications and he uses it to good effect.

Salisbury Diocese has a large rural component and there have been times when Richard's experience, both of living and working in a rural setting, have been invaluable to understand the needs of the people living and worshipping in that sort of area.

I sincerely hope that he will be re-elected in order to maintain the continuity of his presence and service on behalf of the local people and I wish him well in that.



Paul Boyd-Lee,
General Synod Member 1990-2021
Archbishops' Council 2005-2015