

Name of Candidate: Frances Howard

Questions from the electorate for lay candidates
Are you optimistic about the future of the Church of England? Briefly state your three top reasons for your view.
Two broad traditions are at work in the Church of England. Evangelical and moderateHigh church. Clergy are usually called to one tradition rather than both, and where there is strong clergy leadership, each can flourish. I am optimistic about the Church's future because people are seeking spiritual leadership. However if the Church avoids difficult debates, the church will remain empty. Social Action: Many social organisations began within the Church before great evangelists carried their work into socially deprived communities.
What are your views on gender and human sexuality? Do you think that the church of England should carry out same sex blessings? Do you think the church of England should change its teachings on marriage?
My view is that there are two genders male and female. We all have two wills, a lower one and a higher one and the Church is there to instruct us to develop a higher will. We all fail from time to time to control the lower will but the great saints show how to keep trying. It's not a matter of changing the teaching. Marriage is for the nurture of children and both parents are needed for that and the Church should protect the nurture of children.
What are your views on the church's decision to spend £100 million on "reparations" for historical slavery when there are over 50 million people currently held in slavery (UN figures) who could be helped instead?
This is very controversial and any one will say where is the money for the clergy and the parish? World problems are for governments to decide, not the local church. Also who is accountable when receiving this money and where does it go? Parishes have not been asked about this.
Many of the debates in Synod have good arguments on both sides. How would you decide which way to vote?
Decisions can be amended to include a refinement to a motion. It would come down to how the decision affects the people in the parish.
Do you see the current climate crisis as a key priority for the Church of England and why? How do you demonstrate your concern to care for God's creation in your church life?
We are told in the Bible to take great care of the world and hand it on in good shape to the next generation. Many countries will not have enough water if the temperature rises. Do we really need hot tubs in the garden? Saving water is essential for sensible use.

What is your perspective on 'Save the Parish'? Is it a viable manifesto when so many rural parishes have dwindling congregations?

Where there are clergy in a parish, people will support the church. Huge Benefices in rural areas make attendance difficult. Lay people do not always have time to drive someone every week to a distant church that has no communion service. I am in favour of saving the local parish in every community.