Diocese of Salisbury – General Synod Elections

Hello, I am asking for your vote because having served on General Synod for just over a year, there is much more work to be done! I believe I bring a wealth of experience around ministry, mission, governance, communication and representing communities at local, regional and national level.

Lesley **JONES**	**1**

Why I'm nominating Lesley:
'Lesley loves the Lord and brings fantastic energy to all she does in ministry. It would cheer my heart to see her continue to serve on General Synod where she has so much to offer by way of experience, passion and acumen.'
Revd David Reed (Wimborne Deanery)

We live in a time of great change for our nation as well as the Church of England. I feel I can be a strong voice for the diocese having previously lived in Dorset, and later served as a parish priest as both self-supporting minister and in full-time stipendiary minister in the Dioceses of Durham, Canterbury and more recently, a return to Salisbury as Rector of Corfe Mullen.

In the 12 years our family lived in Dorset I held a number of community and representative roles including Dorset County Councilor, right here in Corfe Mullen! The knowledge gained in that time informed the early years of ministry, especially in a benefice that was rural, semi-rural and urban in character.

I have a particular passion for encouraging congregations to not only offer inclusive sacred places of worship but also to develop missionally to become centres for mission, where everyone feels welcome and all gifts are recognized. As we learn and grow together, as followers of Jesus, wherever we are, I long to see a time where we are all the hands and feet of the Lord, and pray for a future when the well-being of all ministers - lay and ordained - is better supported across the C of E.

I am married to Richard (for 30 years) and we have one daughter, Rosie, (28) and share our lives with two adorable golden doodles and a cat called Melody. L. Jones, August 2026

Background Experience

1992 to 2004 - *Dorset*

- Lots of **experience representing** people as a Dorset County Councillor;
- **Consistent.** Ran a successful environmental campaign over four years to protect clean air in a community of 65,000 people.
- Supporting at a national level as **MP's Assistant** in Westminster & Constituency.

2004-2013 – *Durham Diocese*

- I joined the staff at a large **C of E Secondary School** in 2005 and by the time I left in 2013 I was ordained priest. During this time, I gained a valuable insight and **experience working with children, young people and families** as we seek to become a **'younger church'**,

2013 – 2020 *Canterbury Diocese*

- Serving in two benefices as a curate, and later Team Vicar, mission activities included opening a Community Bank, Place of Welcome, Community Wardrobe and working in partnership to reduce homelessness and wider community. I am keen to speak up around resources and sharing best practice so that all communities can flourish.

2020 - 2026 -*Durham Diocese*

- Service as Rector of a multi-church benefice in Jarrow as well as T.I. and as a member of the Bishop's advisors for ministry.
- Mission projects included launching a Community Money Advice Centre.

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At a Glance

- **Encouraging Ministry** and clergy well-being in service and retirement;
- **Inclusivity.** Being a church where **everyone is welcome** and all flourish;
- **Tackling Poverty** supporting post-industrial and **low-income communities**
- **Member of WATCH, Together for the C of E, Inclusive Church,** and supporter of **National Estates Churches Network, Sabeel-Kairos** and **Save The Parish**

Why I'm nominating Lesley:

'Lesley is an active, highly experienced priest and previous member of General Synod. I gladly support her nomination and strong ethos of welcome for all, inclusive church and issues of justice. She will be an asset.'

Revd Helen Bailey (Poole Deanery)
& Dean of Women's Ministry for Salisbury Diocese

Tackling Poverty

I believe that the Church of England, as the national church, needs to be present for everyone in society with a bias towards the marginalized and those caught up in poverty, and if elected I will continue to speak up on this issue.

I have consistently looked for practical ways in which churches can support communities through projects that ease financial pressures and the isolation poverty brings. This includes a number of projects delivered with community partners in Durham and Canterbury dioceses:

- **'One for the Basket'** helping food banks;
- Set up a **Community Bank & Hub**;
- Introduced a **Community Wardrobe;**
- Opened a **Breakfast Club** for vulnerable/homeless adults;
- Supported **Places of Welcome**, **Warm Spaces** and access to **Free Debt Advice.**

Having gained experience during the last General Synod I am keen to encourage greater financial support for parish ministry, funded by the **Church Commissioners.**

Encouraging Ministry

where all can flourish

It is vital we support the well-being of all ministers including ongoing training and changes to the clergy conditions of service. I supported the motion to improve clergy pensions and also see the need for long-term thinking on sustainable clergy renumeration and housing - including retirement housing - as well as clear access to additional practical support for clergy and members of their family when needed.

Everyone is Welcome

I believe in an inclusive church which does not discriminate and where there is a space for all at the table. I believe the Prayers of Love and Faith should be available for clergy to use where pastorally appropriate - on an opt-in basis - and also respect the right of clergy not to use the prayers as a matter of theological conscience.

We need to listen to one another and allow space for people to minister according to their calling and conscience, respecting differences and finding our unity in Christ. I also support the emerging national strategy to encourage people from working class backgrounds discernment, training and ordination.

Call/Text: 07881 555580
or Email: revlesleyjones@gmail.com

Lesley **JONES**	**1**