

General Synod 2026 – Hustings questions

*Answering is optional in all these questions. Enter your response below the questions.
Responses limited to 200 words per question*

Your Calling

1	In what ways do you think God has called you to this role?
	I sense God's call through a passion for local mission and evangelism. I want to help churches create more opportunities for people to encounter Jesus and be transformed by him. When a local church leader encouraged me to consider standing, I prayed about it and felt willing to serve.
2	What is your personal hope for the Church of England?
	My hope is to see a Church of England alive with the Holy Spirit: people passionate about Jesus, growing as disciples and confident in sharing the gospel. I want to see churches deeply rooted in their communities, bringing hope, serving others and making a lasting difference for good for God's Glory.

Church of England Structures

3	What do you consider the three top priorities of the Church of England over the next five years?
	Jesus: More people meeting Jesus, following Jesus and being transformed by Jesus. We need confidence in sharing the gospel and churches equipped to make lifelong disciples. People: Churches looking outward, serving their communities and building genuine relationships beyond Sunday. Under-18s: Investing in children and young people, helping them encounter Jesus, grow in faith and discover their God-given gifts.
4	What do you feel are the main safeguarding topics for discussion at the General Synod? How would you rate your own understanding of those topics?
	I think we need accountable safeguarding governance within the National Church Institutions, appropriate independent scrutiny at national, diocesan and parish levels, and better support for parish priests and Parish Safeguarding Officers. I have a good working understanding of safeguarding, while recognising the need to keep learning and listening to those with specialist expertise.

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5	Do you recognise the key structure of the parish and priest as the bedrock of local ministry and mission in the Guildford Diocese and the Church of England?
	Jesus is the bedrock of the Church. Alongside that, I recognise the parish and priest as crucial to local ministry and mission. A healthy, well-resourced local church, with strong lay and ordained leadership, is best placed to serve its community and share the gospel with the parish.
6	What is your view on maintaining a church in every parish when many are struggling financially?
	I think it is complex. Sometimes we need to sow and invest sacrificially for the sake of the gospel; at other times, difficult decisions or new arrangements may be necessary to steward resources well. This all needs to be done with significant prayer and wisdom from the Lord!
7	Given the previous question, what thoughts or concerns do you have about the choice of central funding for limited focal projects or a model of funding towards the dioceses in support of all parishes?
	I think both approaches have value, but the balance needs careful discernment. Central funding can provide expertise and support that enables parish ministry, particularly around areas such as safeguarding. But our aspiration should be healthy, sustainable parishes with sufficient resources to serve their communities and pursue mission effectively.
8	How would you solve the burden of expensive church building maintenance costs?
	There is no single solution. Different churches will have access to different grants, central funding, congregational support or local fundraising. Good stewardship also means planning ahead: regular maintenance, realistic budgets and long-term thinking can help prevent small problems becoming major costs.
9	Should a candidate for General Synod who threatens to redirect parish share to the Ephesian Fund, withdraw their candidacy? Why or why not?
	No. I believe people who disagree strongly about how resources should be used are still part of the Church, and we need people with different perspectives around the table. I would want those concerns to be discussed openly, prayerfully and constructively, while respecting our shared commitment to Christ and his Church.

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Doctrinal and Theological

10	In what ways does the doctrine of original sin (as defined in article 9) influence your wider theology and ethics?
	I sit under the teaching of the Church of England on Article 9. I believe that ‘all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God’ Romans 3.23 and echo what is said in Psalm 51:5, "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" Yet joyfully we have a saviour that <i>‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow’ (Isaiah 1:18)</i>. We have hope only, because we have hope in Him.
11	Thomas Aquinas defined love as "to love anything is nothing else but to will good to that thing." (Summa Theologica 1.20.2, c.f. Romans 12:9). Do you agree with this definition? If so, how would you define the word <i>good</i> (particularly but not only moral goodness), and practically what does it mean to will good when loving God or our neighbour?
	I agree. Love means seeking another’s good, not simply feeling affection. Good includes moral holiness, justice, truth, flourishing and, ultimately, knowing God and becoming like Christ. Loving God means seeking his glory and obeying him; loving our neighbour means serving, forgiving, encouraging and sometimes speaking difficult truth in love.

Mission and Ministry

12	What is the most significant change to the structure/strategy of the Church of England that will allow more people to come to know Jesus?
	I would put mission, evangelism and discipleship at the heart of everything we do. I would want to see greater freedom for local churches to innovate, stronger support for church planting and revitalisation, and resources directed towards making disciples and reaching communities.
13	Why does it appear that other denominations are able to attract children and youth more than the Church of England?
	In my experience, children’s and youth ministry grows when we prioritise it. The churches I’ve been part of over the last ten years have seen growing youth and children’s work because it has been intentionally invested in. We need ministry where Jesus is real and relevant, joyful and fun, while also offering genuine challenge and discipleship.

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14	Care for Creation is part of the Church's marks of mission. How do you feel about the net-zero targets for 2030?
	I think the targets are challenging but important, and caring for creation is part of our Christian responsibility. However, we should also think long-term. Sometimes the best solution may take longer to implement but deliver greater lasting environmental benefit. We need ambition alongside wisdom, good stewardship and practical realism.
15	What are your thoughts on encouraging more people to enter the church as trainee ordinands?
	I think we should encourage people to explore ordination when they sense God's call. New training models, including part-time and hybrid routes alongside existing work and ministry, can make training accessible to people who might previously not have considered it. Ultimately, we should seek to discern calling carefully and equip people well.

Inclusivity

16	Are you aware of the Racial Justice Covenant in place for the Guildford Diocese, and can you make a statement about your recognition of the aim of the covenant and your support?
	Yes. I support its aim of building a Church marked by justice, peace and reconciliation. I particularly value its prayer that we honour God's image in every person, recognise where we have failed to love without distinction, and seek to break down walls of division.
17	How will you encourage a Church of England where each parish can foster a balanced and informed understanding of inclusivity, creating a culture where differing perspectives can be expressed openly, and where everyone feels genuinely heard, seen and valued?
	I would encourage churches to be places where people can ask difficult questions, listen carefully and disagree graciously. We should create space for differing perspectives while remaining rooted in Scripture and our shared identity in Christ. Everyone should be treated with dignity, heard and valued, and we should seek to understand before responding.

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18	What do you think the Church of England needs to do differently if we are to engage those who have experienced the church to be abusive, homophobic or sexist?
	We need to listen carefully, acknowledge where the Church has caused harm and be willing to say sorry. We need to become safer places, with good safeguarding and accountability, where people are treated with dignity and respect. Our actions and words must demonstrate the love and welcome of Jesus.
19	How do you think the Church of England can ensure LGBTQI+ people are fully welcomed, valued and able to flourish in the life of the Church?
	The Church should be a place where everyone is welcomed, valued and able to encounter their heavenly father. We need to teach clearly what it means to welcome people as Jesus did and to love as he loves. Whatever our theological convictions, people should experience genuine dignity, friendship, care and belonging.
20	Given that faithful Christians interpret Scripture differently on difficult and contested questions, how would you seek to maintain unity within diversity when they disagree?
	We need to keep dialogue open, listen carefully and ensure people understand not just what others believe, but why they believe it. We should remain humble about our own understanding, take Scripture seriously and treat one another with grace. Unity does not require uniformity, but it does require love, patience and mutual respect.
21	Do you believe that women and men are treated equally in our churches? If you were elected to the General Synod, what changes would you like to see which would support women's ministry?
	My experience as a woman has generally been positive, and I have felt equally valued by church leadership and the wider church. But I recognise others may have experienced things differently. I would want to listen carefully to both women and men and identify where practical support, encouragement or opportunities are needed.

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Equal Marriage and Marriage Law

22	Marriage laws in the UK are being reformed, with the proposed change moving the system from licensed buildings to licensed officiants. Should clergy be permitted to conduct weddings in any dignified and safe location?
	A church building is a special place because it represents the worshipping community and points us towards God. However I see why some people would love to get married surrounded in the beauty of God's creation. I would want any changes to preserve the dignity and Christian meaning of marriage while considering how best to serve couples and communities.
23	How do we resolve the apparent conflict between making all people feel included and welcome whilst holding firm to the Bible's and CofE's historic position on marriage, and so allow the CofE to move on from endless debates about sexuality?
	I don't see welcome and theological conviction as opposites. We can welcome and value everyone while holding a traditional Christian understanding of marriage. We need to teach clearly, listen carefully and treat people with dignity and love. We also need to find ways to disagree well and allow the Church to focus on its mission.
24	If you were an Incumbent, would you allow an assistant priest or curate in your parish to use the Prayers of Love and Faith if, in conscience, they felt able to do so?
	I am not currently an incumbent, so I would want to understand the circumstances carefully. Our church holds the historic Christian understanding of marriage, and I would seek to act consistently with that teaching and our church's theological position, but would want to listen respectfully to understand the views of others whose conscience leads them differently.
25	Would you support a member of your congregation who was in a same sex marriage being on your PCC, or leading worship or children's/youth work in your church?
	Our church holds to the historic Christian understanding of marriage. I would want to respect the authority of our local church leadership in appointing people to serve in different ministry roles. But I believe everyone who comes to church should have a place, be welcomed and valued, and be encouraged to use their gifts and serve within the life of the church.