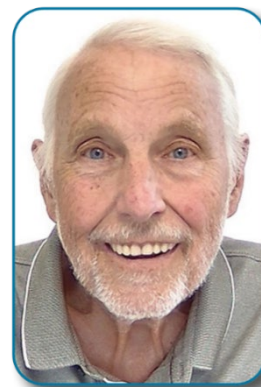


Leslie King

Standing for the House of Laity of General Synod

Nominator 1: Carolyn Graham (Guildford Deanery and former member of Synod)

Nominator 2: John Padwick (Epsom Deanery)



General information about me

I attend Christ Church Epsom Common where I'm on the PCC, a Life Group member, the Epsom Deanery Synod rep, and the Parish Safeguarding Officer. I would love to be part of the Worship Team but, due to a complete lack of giftedness, I'm relegated to "making a joyful noise!" Hallelujah!

- I consider myself an '**evangelical**' Christian, but, for me, believing this **also** means being **fully inclusive, excluding nobody from a full church and Christian life**.
- I've been married to Maureen for 55 years. We have two sons, one of whom has Asperger's Syndrome. That helps me focus on the needs of those challenged by neurodiversity.
- I have a BA (Hons) in Public Administration and Management. I spent 42 years in law enforcement, retiring as a Chief Superintendent after 32 years in the Metropolitan Police. I worked in law enforcement for another ten years before retiring at 65 from the National Crime Agency (NCA). Hopefully good relevant experience for General Synod.
- I am a long-time subscriber of the Church Times which keeps me abreast of matters relating to the C of E, General Synod and the wider world from a Christian perspective. I will never stop asking questions to help deepen my knowledge and faith.
- I like designing board games, caravanning, reading, graphic design, printing and I am passionate about the value of top-notch publicity for churches.

I'd like to be elected as a General Synod representative because:

- I want to see General Synod becoming a **simpler, humbler and bolder** body, with a straightforward vision of what the Church and Christians can be.
- **I have a straightforward view of what the Church is** – it is to be the body, hands, feet and mouth of Christ as he establishes the Kingdom of God on earth. We must **use HIS example** as our guide, showing love as we engage in discipleship and mission, strive towards holiness, and put God first in all we do, and show genuine love to our neighbour.
- **I have a straightforward view of what a Christian is** – and that is someone who loves God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind and who loves their neighbour as themselves. Someone who prays, reads scripture and who trusts in the promises of the resurrection and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Someone who yearns to be a true disciple and then works towards becoming a disciple-maker in their church.
- I believe we do this by **focusing on and imitating Jesus** by following both his words and deeds, such as his example of **being inclusive and challenging hypocrisy and the abuse of power**, encouraging ourselves and others to take this role seriously.
- I believe we are enormously helped in this quest by the **Pastoral Principles for Living and Learning Well Together**, published by the C of E, which encourage the Church, **within its membership, to address ignorance, pay attention to power, cast out fear, acknowledge prejudice, speak into silence and admit hypocrisy**.

- I believe this is the only way the Church can become **more relevant** in a society that has largely abandoned the Christian message. Our society is so much in need of the salvation and joy offered through Christ and we must seek God and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to enable change. **We must do everything we can to promote unity and to avoid division inside the church through mature discussion.**
- **I have a very straightforward view of what General Synod is for** – and that is to help the church and its members achieve the bullet points listed above.
- I am dedicated to promoting **full inclusivity** in my church and Deanery, the Diocese and hopefully the wider church through General Synod. I long to make the church a safe place for **LGBTQ+** individuals, allowing them open relationships, marriage and full access to leadership in all roles within the church. I also have a desire to ensure the full involvement of **women** in church leadership in all quarters of the church without let or hindrance. And, of course, we must never neglect the full inclusion of our brothers and sisters from different **ethnic backgrounds** and ensure they are fully welcomed, fully involved and **all** opportunities in church life are open to them as well.
- I am passionate about **equality and justice issues**, with a real concern for the marginalised - the 'other'. We must constantly major on issues of race, ability, sexuality, gender and gender identity, and any other marginalised group within the C of E. I seek a church where the God-given potential **of all** is fully embraced and celebrated - calling for an end to all discrimination against anyone. **If elected, I would do my best to pursue equality and justice issues through the General Synod.**
- You will not be surprised that **I am a supporter of the Inclusive Church Network and Together for the Church of England** and **publicly endorse their statements**. In summary, that is a **“Commitment to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church and across the whole range of God-given diversity”**.
- I try to promote **my own church’s values of Community, Inclusion and Hope**, and the **Guildford Diocesan strategy: “Transforming Church, Transforming Lives”**.
- I believe the **parish** must be **affirmed as the outward and visible pivotal sign of the unique mission of the C of E** and I support the **“Save The Parish”** campaign.
- My other concerns are around **modern slavery/people trafficking**, and the **climate emergency**. Drawing on my law enforcement experience, I have a deep-seated concern around matters of **safeguarding, bullying and protecting the vulnerable** – which is a very live issue for General Synod. I also believe we, as a church and as a nation must do much better in **aiding the ‘alien’ and the immigrant** who comes to our shores. I strongly support **tackling mental ill-health** inside and outside the Church – seeing that as a **mission priority**. **Healthy leaders lead healthy churches!**

Thank you for reading my electoral statement. I hope that you will feel able to give me your **first** preference vote, and I’ll be truly honoured if are able to do so. General Synod voting is by single transferable vote, so please put me **high on your list if I’m not your first preference vote**. **WHATEVER, PLEASE DO USE YOUR VOTE.**

You can, if you would like, see me in a 2½ min video via this link: <https://youtu.be/QIX4QGf3GFY>

To ask me about anything I have written above, please contact me: Leslie King, 129 Holmwood Road, Cheam, Surrey SM2 7JS email: leslieking@ntlworld.com

Don’t forget to vote! Votes must be in by 13th October 2026