



Katie Wood; Diocese of Norwich



1 Describe your Anglican identity in three words.

Devout, Humble, Prayerful

2 What would be your top three priorities for this coming General Synod if you were elected?

Parish sustainability — ensuring financial efficiency doesn't quietly hollow out ministry in poorer or isolated communities, with lay ministry properly resourced rather than a stopgap. **Safeguarding** — moving from legislation to real implementation, with independent scrutiny and survivors genuinely feeling believed, not just process compliance. **Unity through disagreement**, especially on sexuality and marriage — building structures for gracious disagreement so people on both sides of the tough debates can stay in the same Church. Synod debates well but follows through inconsistently once attention moves on. My main priority would be building accountability mechanisms that don't depend on Synod remembering to ask.

3 What would you bring to the General Synod which will enhance its culture, reputation and work?

I bring 25+ years of working in a highly regulated industry to a Synod that debates well but struggles to close things out. In my experience, "we're committed" needs a named owner, an audit trail and a deadline. I've watched Synod allow the Racial Justice Commission's term lapse before intervening, land safeguarding reform on a compromise survivors called disappointing, and watched a bishop refuse to publish legal advice behind a £100 million decision. That's a follow-through problem, not a debating one. Synod needs people who ask "who owns this, and by when will it be completed."

4 How best do you think the National Church could use its significant financial resources to further the 5-marks of mission?

With the Commissioners' endowment at £11.6bn and £1.638bn approved for 2026–2028, allocation choices reveal priorities. **Evangelism**: Target strategic mission funding toward struggling dioceses, not just growth areas. **Discipleship**: funding for this mission which has been chronically under-resourced. **Loving service**: ring-fence the £203m Lowest Income Communities Funding against administrative pressures to divert funds. **Justice**: the £100m slavery-legacy fund is genuinely contested — this requires thoughtful discussion **Creation care**: Net Zero funding doesn't yet match the 2030 ambition. Synod can't fund every mark equally from one pot — its job is to debate and prioritize

5 *What steps do you believe General Synod must take next to ensure robust independent and transparent safeguarding practices across every level of the church?*

Five steps: **publish a timeline** for the Programme Board, not just a direction of travel; **resolve the unfinished Jay recommendations** on defining spiritual abuse and bishops' role in case decisions; **treat the £150m redress scheme's 2026 launch as an oversight test**, not just a funding milestone; **keep tracking "fuller independence"** so the current compromise doesn't quietly become permanent; and **fix local issues fast**, not via rolling audit cycles. The underlying tension — survivors wanted full independence now, bishops wanted phased continuity — isn't resolved, just managed. Synod's job is ensuring "managed for now" doesn't become "shelved".

6 *What is your vision for the rural church and how its life and mission should be supported?*

A thriving rural church means real presence in every community not just Sunday services, but buildings used all week for outreach and ministry. It means funding that reaches scattered, low-income parishes, not just growth dioceses. It means treating multi-benefice ministry as the permanent shape of rural mission, with clergy properly supported rather than stretched thin. And it means a mixed ecology of fresh expressions and lay-led ministry genuinely including rural areas, not just cities. The challenge is consolidation for sustainability versus preserving presence everywhere and Synod's task is to ensure that efficiency does not over-ride faithfulness and ministry for all.

7 *What do you believe the church's role is at this time of climate crisis?*

The Church's role in the climate crisis is to treat creation care as core to Christian discipleship, while using its institutional weight (its buildings, its Net Zero commitments, and its global Anglican relationships) to help address the issue. Ecological indifference is a theological failure, not just a policy gap. Practically, the Church has committed to Net Zero by 2030, a target currently under-resourced relative to its ambition. I would advocate for thoughtful debate on how limited funds should split between building retrofit, parish projects and climate advocacy.

8 *In light of the Church of England's from Lament to Action report, and recognising the increasing polarisation in UK public life around nationalism, identity, and migration, what would your contribution be to fostering racial diversity and challenge discrimination in our church?*

Monitoring shouldn't lapse because the Racial Justice Commission's term did. I'd want a standing item, not a one-off request, so reporting doesn't become an afterthought. Synod should push dioceses on data, not intentions: publishing actual figures on UK Minority Ethnic/Global Majority Heritage participation in appointments and governance, not vague diversity commitments. On the wider polarisation around nationalism and migration, I'd be wary of the Church taking sides in that debate, rather than remaining a place where people who see things differently can

still sit at the same table - better to focus institutional accountability on that which the Church itself controls.

9 *What are your views on Project Spire (the Church Commissioners' findings about transatlantic chattel slavery and the proposal to create a fund for healing, repair and justice?)*

This is genuinely one of the Church's most polarising issues, and my role would be to listen and debate. I don't think the historical finding can simply be set aside as that would sit badly with the Church's own theology of repentance. But the Commissioners have handled the politics poorly: announcing a commitment before planning implementation, then facing unanswered transparency questions. This curdled a debate about scale and mechanism into one about trust. I'd push harder for transparency on the legal reasoning than for a verdict on £100m spend as right now, there is no clear path forward.

10 *What is your view about the sacramental ministry of priests and bishops who are women, and do you personally receive their ministry in full?*

I fully support the sacramental ministry of women as priests and bishops - their ministry is no less valid, no less Christ-given, than any man's. I recognise this isn't universally settled: some, in good conscience, hold a different view rooted in tradition and church order, and the Five Guiding Principles rightly protect their place within our Church. I don't think disagreement here should be papered over. But my own conviction is clear — I receive the ministry of women bishops and priests fully, and I'll support structures that let both convictions flourish together.

11 *What is your view on the current status of the 'House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests and the Five Guiding Principles?*

I endorse the Five Guiding Principles and fully support women's ministry as priests and bishops — the two aren't in tension. Women's ordination is the Church's settled decision, and I receive their sacramental ministry as wholly valid. But endorsing the principles also means recognising that those who in conscience hold a different view, remain within legitimate Anglican stewardship, entitled to pastoral and sacramental provision for as long as needed. Supporting women's ministry and supporting mutual flourishing aren't competing commitments — they're the same commitment to a Church that holds conviction and generosity together.

12 *What is your view about services of blessing in church after a civil same-sex marriage at (i) a usual service, or (ii) a standalone service, and (iii) same sex marriage conducted in churches (in all cases where the incumbent and PCC are supportive)?*

Blessing within a usual service is permitted since 2023, and I support it. (ii) A standalone service: this is genuinely unresolved. Its wedding-like form raises the doctrinal question more sharply, and needs proper resolution through the current working group, not indefinite drift. (iii) Same-sex marriage in churches are not currently possible and where there is deepest disagreement; it's about the Church's

doctrine of marriage itself, not something local support can settle. Overall, the Church should distinguish what's genuinely settled from what needs continued discernment, rather than treating (ii) and (iii) as already decided.

13 *What is your view about the ordination of candidates who are in same sex marriages, and the licensing of clergy who enter same sex marriage?*

I haven't reached a settled personal view on this, and I think that's more truthful than pretending otherwise. The Church has moved carefully: Prayers of Love and Faith are now permitted, but ordination and licensing for clergy in same-sex marriages remain unresolved, with a working group exploring the legislative process. I understand both the case for extending PLF's logic to clergy, and the case that clergy's representative role makes this doctrinal, not just pastoral. I'm still weighing both sides and think Synod's task right now is continued discernment together, not a forced resolution.

14 *How do you plan to communicate and consult effectively with the wider electorate?*

I'll consult, when possible, but business moves fast and I won't be able to check in before every vote. I will provide a short update after every Synod (what came up, how I voted and why, what's coming next) to be sent to the deanery and diocesan synods, and made available to parishes as requested. After a big vote, I would report back not just "how I voted" but "here's what the outcome means practically for parishes" Outcomes can be abstract and translating them into "here's what changes for you" is often the most valued part of the update.

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions or would like any clarity around my responses to the above questions

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