

Candidate: Susanna Cooper

1. Describe your Anglican identity in three words.

Rural broad church.

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

Parish - to restore the Church Commissioners' funds to their founding purpose ie. Stipendiary ministry.

Priest - to adopt a Charter of Care that values clergy and guards them from mental and physical exhaustion. To renew a rich theological resourcing for theological education which is ordinand centred not budget centred.

People - to adopt a "Churchgoers' Charter" that honours the volunteers who hold together our parishes. To reform the Mission and Pastoral measure.

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

Pragmatism and seeing the bigger picture.

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

Use central money to fund more parish priests, because unless we have sufficient priests to act as local leaders, mission is less likely to happen as volunteers will be too busy running services and maintaining the building. Norfolk is short of parish priests.

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?

This seems to me to be more a matter for management than General Synod.

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

More parish priests who have had some kind of training about how to minister in rural areas.

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

To offer help to those affected by it.

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?

To maintain the very simple clear message that everyone is welcome in our Church.

- 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?)**

I think the money could be put to better use - to fund more priests.

- 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 ordination of women. I accept their ministry, unreservedly, in full.

- 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 don't think it matters what is my opinion here. Within the CofE we are not all going to share the same views, we don't have to. It's a broad church. We don't want to cause more schisms which might force people out.

- 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)?**

I don't feel sufficiently well informed to make any comment.

- 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?**

Again, I'm neutral on this subject.

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

I will attend deanery Synod meetings