

Mr Andrew Jenkins

1. What has prompted you to stand for election to General Synod in particular, and in which ways do you think it will challenge your capacity and capabilities?

In short: I want to bring conviction, leadership experience and a willingness to listen, while recognising that the Church cannot simply be managed like an organisation.

I am standing because I believe the Church of England, in this fast-changing world, has an important opportunity to recover confidence in its calling: to proclaim Jesus Christ faithfully, make disciples and serve our communities.

I want to contribute from an orthodox evangelical perspective, while listening carefully to those with different viewpoints—something I have learned to do throughout my career.

I spent much of my working life in global venture capital and running my own management and leadership business. I can bring that experience of strategy, governance, change and bringing people together around a common purpose to General Synod.

I recognise, however, that Synod will challenge me in ways professional leadership cannot fully prepare me for. I know that the Church is not simply an organisation to manage, but the Body of Christ, with a deep theological, pastoral and spiritual life.

As a serving magistrate, I listen to differing views and work with others to reach conclusions.

2. What do you believe the Church of England should prioritise over the next five years to support mission, Christian discipleship and the flourishing of parish and other worshipping communities?

In short: Put Jesus and disciple-making first, strengthen local churches, and equip ordinary Christians to live and share their faith confidently.

We must put Jesus Christ and the making of disciples at the heart of everything we do.

I want to see practical, confident, biblically grounded churches where people encounter the joy of knowing Jesus, come to deep faith, grow as disciples and discover their calling to serve. That means investing not only in mission, but in the health and vitality of our existing parishes and worshipping communities.

I would particularly emphasise prayer, biblical teaching, evangelism, vocation and practical discipleship. We need to equip lay people, not just ordained ministers, to share their faith and serve their communities.

We should learn from churches that are growing, while recognising that no single model will work everywhere. Local communities know their context best.

National initiatives should enable local mission rather than continually add unnecessary bureaucracy.

Above all, I would measure success not simply by structures, attendance or activity, but by whether people are becoming committed followers of Jesus and whether our churches are becoming healthier, more vibrant, confident and outward-looking communities of faith.

3. What should General Synod do to help the Church become safer, more accountable and more trusted, ensuring that national reforms work effectively in parishes, dioceses, and cathedrals?

In short: Strong safeguarding and clear accountability must be matched by practical, proportionate policies that people can understand, apply and trust.

My leadership experience has taught me that trust has to be earned, and safeguarding must remain central to that.

General Synod must insist on clear accountability, proper governance and effective safeguarding, while ensuring national reforms work in parish life.

Good policies are not enough. We need to make them understandable and practical, give people confidence in them and ensure they know what action to take if things go wrong.

We should learn openly from past failures rather than respond defensively. That means acknowledging where the Church has fallen short and creating a culture in which people can raise concerns safely and see them acted upon promptly.

At the same time, we need clear and proportionate accountability. Parish clergy and volunteers should not become overwhelmed by bureaucracy or unnecessarily complex implementation.

My organisational leadership experience has taught me that effective governance depends on clarity: clear responsibilities, appropriate oversight, good communication and a willingness to challenge policies that do not work practically.

I would support reforms that strengthen safeguarding and accountability without creating unnecessary bureaucracy.

4. How should the Church prioritise good intentional investment in mission and growth whilst also resourcing parish ministry in all its forms?

In short: Mission and parish ministry should reinforce one another, with resources directed intentionally towards healthy, sustainable churches and faithful discipleship.

I don't think we should set mission and parish ministry against each other. Healthy parish ministry is itself practical mission that strengthens local churches.

We need to make investment intentional, evidence-informed and focused on outcomes rather than simply structures. We should invest where there is genuine potential for people to encounter and follow Jesus, while recognising the vital role of churches serving smaller or more challenging communities.

A healthy Church of England future depends on equipping more people to exercise their gifts through local churches, rather than assuming every need can be met through ordained ministry alone or adding bureaucracy that makes ministry harder.

National and diocesan resources should help parishes become more confident and sustainable through training, leadership development, evangelism and sharing effective practice.

My leadership experience makes me ask whether investment is achieving its intended purpose and whether we are using resources effectively. But I also recognise that not everything of value can be measured immediately.

We should invest for growth through faithful, Spirit-filled followers of Jesus, deeper discipleship and good stewardship.

5. General Synod must address issues on which faithful Christians hold deeply differing views. How would you contribute to honest debate, good disagreement and clear decision-making while helping the Church maintain its common life and mission?

In short: Listen carefully, speak honestly from conviction, disagree without impugning motives, and once decisions are made, work constructively together.

I believe honest disagreement is possible without becoming divisive.

I will listen carefully, seek to understand the theological and practical reasons behind different positions, and speak honestly about my own traditional orthodox convictions.

I will not avoid difficult questions simply to preserve an appearance of unity. We should distinguish between what we believe Scripture teaches and changing cultural assumptions, while ensuring disagreements do not become destructive.

My Christian faith gives me convictions that I will hold faithfully, particularly where I believe Scripture is clear. At the same time, Synod brings together Christians from different traditions, and I will listen, learn and acknowledge complexity.

My experience as a magistrate will help me weigh sides of an argument without impugning motives, distinguish matters of principle from prudence, and consider evidence as well as argument.

My professional experience has taught me that decisions eventually have to be made. Once a process reaches a decision, we should work constructively together.

Our common life rests on our allegiance to Jesus Christ and our shared mission to proclaim the gospel.