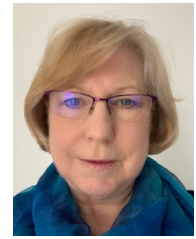


Jacqueline Stamper

Standing for re-election to General Synod

Lancaster Christ Church



Nominated by David Barlow, Seconded by Nick Aves

Why am I standing for re-election?

I have: a depth of experience serving Blackburn Diocese and representing it on General Synod and other bodies at the national level; senior management experience; and a passion for an inclusive, outward-looking vibrant church.

Who am I, and where do I come from?

On my varied Christian journey, I have experienced a broad spectrum of churchmanship, and have learned to be sensitive to and sympathetic with people of diverse views. I'm the child of a Belfast Presbyterian father and an Essex-based Plymouth Brethren mother. I was brought up in a loving family committed to serving God in a low-to-middle Anglican parish at first, but we all grew to share and enjoy worship in many different traditions. (My sister and my niece are both Baptist ministers.) I read Modern History at Oxford (and ran the Anglican Mission to the University), and then worked in higher education in London, worshipping at traditional and liberal Catholic churches. I moved to the Netherlands with my husband and then baby son [now 34 and living in Denmark!], and set up a management consultancy. At the Anglican Chaplaincy there I helped develop a financial sustainability strategy. I came back to the UK to a senior management role at Lancaster University, with extensive personnel, financial, and buildings responsibilities in a rapidly changing funding and technological environment. Medical retirement allowed more time for church and charities, when I was able.

I worship at Christ Church, Lancaster, where I have served as Churchwarden, Vision Champion, PCC member, Planned Giving Officer/Gift Aid Secretary, study group leader, etc. We are a vibrant, inclusive, worshipping community in the liberal Catholic tradition. We run a winter night shelter for homeless people (the only non-referral shelter in the North-West, now entering its 30th season), and are active in supporting refugees and asylum seekers, local food banks and children's centres, and the Eco-Church/Treading Lightly movement. I serve on the Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council & Diocesan Board of Finance, Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee, Vacancy in See Committee, and now Finance Committee, as well as chairing the Human Resources Committee. The Bishop of Blackburn has appointed me to the Clergy Discipline Measure Provincial Panel, and I represent the Board of Finance on the Outer Estates Leadership Programme Board, helping coordinate the inspirational work of these three SDF-funded projects in some of the poorest estates in the diocese. I became Lay Chair of Lancaster & Morecambe Deanery in 2017.

In 2015, I was honoured to be elected to represent the laity of this Diocese on General Synod. In 2017 I was appointed to the national Working Group on the Covenant for Clergy Wellbeing and became its Vice-Chair, and was heavily involved in drafting the Covenant and its accompanying report and recommendations, and in steering it to its adoption by General Synod. I have been active in the work of many Synod fringe groups concerned with inclusion, equality, and estates ministry. Nationally, I also continue to serve as a Ministry Division Reviewer of Ministerial Education, helping to assure the quality of theological educational institutions, and as a Peer Reviewer of Dioceses. I continue to be an appointed member of the Dioceses Commission.

I served as Trustee, and latterly Vice-Chair, of All Saints' Centre for Mission and Ministry (now Emmanuel Theological College). I am also a Trustee of Jesus Shaped People, and of RAIS (Refugee Advocacy, Information and Support) Lancaster. I previously chaired the Ruskin Foundation.

What do I stand for, and why might you consider voting for me?

- + Archbishop Stephen's vision of a 'simpler, humbler, bolder Church – Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped' offers challenges and opportunities. If we are to continue to be Christ's presence in *every* community (especially the poorest), it will require financial creativity within and between dioceses, alongside employing the talents of *all* Christ's disciples, ordained and lay. Our estates particularly need

the church's presence, and as a church we need to encourage and develop lay and ordained leaders from and in them. (I hope that my experience in peer reviews, the Dioceses Commission, in theological educational institutions, and of different ministry funding models in Europe and the Baptist Church, might help serve in this area, alongside my work with Jesus Shaped People and outer estates.)

- + With the help of God, I strive to become more Jesus-shaped – and usually fail! He held every individual in love; He reached out and walked alongside the poor, the marginalised and the discriminated against; He met their human need; and He spoke truth to power on their behalf. We as individual Christians and as the church need to do the same, offering not only practical support but also influencing policy to bring an end to the need for food banks, shelters for street homeless guests, and the hostile environment that increases the abuse suffered by those seeking asylum. For example, I welcome the CofE Housing Strategy to find housing stock to accommodate refugees, those getting out of street homelessness, and those in need of an extra helping hand to live independently, which has the potential to transform lives.
- + We need to care for God's Creation before we destroy it. I voted for Synod to commit to carbon net zero by 2030, and would urge *all* National Church Institutions to make that commitment, as well as trying to do what I can locally to reduce our carbon footprint.
- + Each unique individual is an equally beloved child of God. I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. I am standing for re-election to General Synod as an Inclusive Church supported candidate. I want us to be a church in which all are welcomed, affirmed and equally valued, and in which none are discriminated against – and also a safe church, which repents of and repairs abuse.
- + The church needs to hear the intense pain of rejection experienced by many in (or now no longer in) the church on account of their sexuality, and the bewilderment of those outside the church at such exclusion, and to act – and act soon. Are we showing the love that Jesus poured out if we deny people in committed loving relationships? There *can* be change without requiring anyone with deeply-held theological convictions to act against their conscience (cf. the re-marriage of divorced people).
- + People of global majority heritage and those with disabilities are significantly under-represented in the Church of England, and among ordained ministers and those in training. We need to find creative ways to bring about change, not only better to reflect all of society, but to include and celebrate the diverse gifts of all God's children and to offer role models for future generations.
- + All the above will need appropriate partnership and support between clergy and laity for the mutual wellbeing of all Christ's disciples as we all live out our 'everyday faith'. Senior clergy and others will also need to offer generous pastoral care to help alleviate the stress and isolation that has frequently been experienced by many clergy (and lay leaders) – evidenced in the clergy wellbeing research, and exacerbated and laid bare by the recent pandemic. The commitments in the Clergy Covenant are needed even more post-COVID, and to be acted upon throughout the church.

This new quinquennium will call for creative thinking and adaptable solutions in General Synod. I trust that my experience in strategic and change management and HR in the public and third sectors has taught me to be creative and adaptable, while remaining committed to my core principles and values, and to listen to and respect all individuals whether we agree or disagree even on the deepest issues. We are still far from real and deep mutual flourishing across the church. I have been involved in church governance at many levels, to try to facilitate the work of the Church in spreading and sharing God's love and showing faith in action and been blessed to be able to do so, despite my health problems.

If I am re-elected to General Synod, I commit to listen openly to debates, to analyse and evaluate evidence and opinions, to bear in mind the views of those in and beyond our churches, and to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in deciding how to respond or vote. I offer sensitivity to diversity, a breadth of churchmanship, an open-ness to listen to varying voices, and prayerfulness to discern a consensus for the way forward.

Thank you for reading my statement. If you share my values and want an experienced candidate representing you on Synod, please consider me for your first preference vote. All the candidates and voters in this election will continue to be in my prayers.