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General Synod 2026 - Election Address

I set here a summary of my personal, employment, Church activities and beliefs, to assist you in determining whether I may have the privilege of representing you and others of like mind in the forthcoming General Synod.

My full-time employment is as chief executive of an interdenominational UK registered educational charity focusing on Jewish / Christian relations, which includes speaking and exhibiting at Christian festivals such as Big Church, CRE and similar, leading tours to Israel and the Palestinian territories, co-study of the Bible, and holding briefing and parliamentary sessions. Prior to this, having completed a master's degree in property valuation and law, then qualifying as a chartered surveyor, I was director of a multidisciplinary Chartered Surveying practice covering East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent and Surrey.

Having four now grown-up children, all committed to church life, I sadly lost my first wife eleven years ago. More recently I married again gaining a further three children of university age. I enjoy discussing with them today's culture and how to communicate the Christian message in a relevant and contemporary way.

I served as church warden of a rural evangelical parish for six years, which I also represented on Deanery Synod. I served on Chichester Bishop's Council for some eighteen years and remain a member of Chichester Diocesan Synod. I also serve as vice-Chair of the Chichester diocesan evangelical fellowship (DEF) and a national representative on the Church of England evangelical council (CEEC).

During previous terms on General Synod, I was elected to serve as a Church Commissioner and appointed to their Bishoprics and Cathedral's committee where I contributed from my property background. I was also selected as Commissioner to join the board of the new Lambeth Palace library development.

I am well acquainted with the pressures placed upon local parishes and familiar with the practical and doctrinal issues facing the Church of England more widely having worshipped at both village and town parishes. I consider it essential we are good stewards of both the physical resources of our heritage, alongside upholding the gospel as recorded in the Bible and handed down from generation to generation, often at great cost.

We must, with the help of the Holy Spirit, fulfil the instruction of our Lord to love one another as he has loved us and, in the authority Jesus has been given, reach the wider world, encouraging others to follow him as pilgrims and disciples, ensuring that the intricacies and bureaucracy of our organisations assist in these goals and do not detract from them.

I hold to the traditional teaching of the Church of England. I believe the Bible is the inspired and authoritative written word of God and the principal basis of instruction in the Church. I believe in the uniqueness of our Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour of the world, the Way to restoring right relationship with our Heavenly Father, the Truth and the Life.

It is important for the Church to exercise a distinctive voice on moral ethics to give clarity in a confused world. I support traditional family life, defining marriage as the life-long union between one man and one woman and in discussion lovingly seek to uphold this teaching of the Church concerning human sexuality.

I believe in the biblical view of the sanctity of life from conception to departing this life, which is my guiding principle in medical ethics.

I and my wife believe the Bible teaches men and women have co-equal, complimentary roles in the life of the Church, yet appreciate and work well with those who see differently on this.

If elected I endeavour to attend all meetings of the General Synod, with the aim of representing the many who worship and attend locally, holding to the traditional faith of the Church of England as drawn from the Bible.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss any matter further. I do hope you are able to give me your first preference vote or high preference.

Thank you,

Jacob Vince, 1st September 2026