

The Rev Dr Jack Dunn

Standing for the House of Clergy, General Synod 2026 · Diocese of Chichester

In a nutshell

I am Chaplain at Brighton College, with Permission to Officiate across the Diocese, where I help to lead services. I worship in Ovingdean parish.

I am a lifelong Anglican and love the breadth of the Church of England, having worshipped in middle-of-the-road, Evangelical, and Anglo-Catholic parishes. What matters most to me is integrity in worship.

I fell in love with Jesus Christ when I was seven and felt called to be a priest at 11. I spent the next 20 years thinking that there must be better people to ordain than me. Most days, I still do.

Ordained ministry

I trained at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and have been ordained for 15 years. I have served in parishes across four dioceses, worshipped in churches in three more, and been attached to chaplaincies connected to two others, so I am blessed to know something of the breadth of the Church of England.

Why Synod?

As a former Parish Development Officer for the Diocese, I feel well equipped to represent all of our diocesan clergy on Synod. I believe in working together, across difference, to achieve meaningful change.

I know the importance of careful and attentive listening, particularly to what is not being said; of dispassionate advocacy; and of consistently standing up for those on the margins. I will communicate clearly to our Diocese what the issues are, and consult members across the Diocese for their wisdom and guidance.

Wider roles

My training incumbent taught me the importance of being involved in the wider life of the Church, and of serving wider society. Key roles include:

- Trustee of Clergy Support Trust, and of St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing
- Volunteer for MAPPA Essex (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)
- Vocations Adviser for three dioceses
- Helping the Church of England's working group on Safeguarding Independence
- Establishing a winter night shelter for people experiencing homelessness, and leading a Community Sponsorship Scheme for a refugee family
- Working with the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust: 27 schools across three dioceses
- Designing and leading a diocesan growth course
- Serving on Diocesan Synod, and on Diocesan Environmental and Racial Justice committees
- Enabling lay vocations, and working with children and young people across the theological breadth of the Church to develop faith, participation, agency, and involvement



PROPOSER

The Revd Canon Lisa Barnett

SECONDER

Mother Arwen Folkes

QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to contact me:
jdunn@brightoncollege.net

BEFORE ORDINATION

- A D.Phil. in Irish history, then teaching history
- Volunteering in a London prison and with the Samaritans
- Magistrate in the adult criminal and family courts

SPIRITUAL HOME

I identify most with the Benedictine tradition, and for the last two decades I have been nurtured and resourced by Douai Abbey in Berkshire.

"Jack works with wisdom and sensitivity across the theological breadth of the Church of England. His experience of ministry in parishes, at the Cathedral, in chaplaincy and at diocesan and national level, working across the full diversity of theological traditions, has given him a thoughtful voice to contribute to General Synod. He combines significant theological rigour with pastoral sensitivity, as well as an astute awareness of the strategic issues facing the Church of England. I am delighted to be supporting his candidacy".

The Revd Canon Lisa Barnett, Rector, Horsham Team Parish

What I care about

If you are looking for someone who knows how they will vote on every issue, then you should not vote for me. If I knew that, there would be little point in taking part in debate.

I do have some fixed points, and I want to be transparent about them. Above all: maintaining breadth and integrity across God's Church, with the parish at its very heart, and all of the people of God treated with respect, integrity, and kindness at all times. Four issues coming to Synod are close to my heart.

Safeguarding

I believe that church safeguarding has a much wider impact in our communities than we often realise. When I was growing up, my local church truly was a safe space. I went alone but never felt alone. Church became my family, and it saved my life.

The next Synod must make significant decisions about safeguarding. My focus will be on what this means on the ground, particularly for parishes, where finding and keeping willing and able volunteers can be an uphill struggle. Fortunately, I have good relationships with those who hold the Church to account, including INEQE. This helps triangulate information and maintain accountability.

Care of the clergy, trust, and accountability

In my lifetime I have seen a growing gap in care for the clergy: our hierarchy has had to become managers, with little bottom-up accountability for clergy care. As a trustee of two of the largest and oldest clergy care charities for the last 12 years, I see the national picture of clergy wellbeing at first hand. I know the places that do this well, and how.

More and more ministers and their families are ill or in trouble, with little sense that anyone has their backs. This is distressing. Synod members must raise this issue, and keep raising it, until something changes. To do that effectively, we need independent national data to drive accountability and change.

Sex and sexuality

I pray for an age where LGBTQIA+ people are not seen as an 'issue' to be solved: an age where we talk about 'us', not 'us and them'. I long for a kinder, more charitable Church and Synod, where we see what unites us first and genuinely celebrate it, showing the world how the Christian way is to love one another, and to have and to hold difference, as we seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness.

On same-sex marriage, I believe that priests should have the ability to decide who they marry, according to their own consciences and in consultation with the communities of faith that they lead. I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

Money and the marginalised

Too much money is held at the centre, and conversations about how it is allocated and spent happen in rooms that are not representative of the Church. Nationally, we need to get much better, fairer, and faster at releasing funding for mission and ministry across the entire breadth of the Church of England. I have a good sense of how the different calls for funding add up, and where the neglected areas remain, including rural ministry. Meaningful change will need Synod members to work together. If elected, that is what I will do.

"I have seen first-hand how Jack's devotion to Christ and the Church is clearly reflected in his deep care for the wellbeing of all clergy; I have no doubt that he will work tirelessly at Synod to this end and warmly commend Jack for your support for General Synod". **Laura Steven**, Head of Wellbeing for Clergy and Families, Diocese of Chichester

Working together

A strength of the Church of England is its diversity. We need to get much better at celebrating our differences and working together.

'Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you'. ~ 2 Corinthians 13.11

I would be honoured if you would consider giving me your first preference, or a high preference, vote. I will work with integrity for the welfare of the whole Church, whose breadth I care about passionately. Please do get in contact (jdunn@brightoncollege.net) as I am always happy to chat.

"I strongly commend Jack for General Synod. He would bring to it a deep love for Jesus Christ and the Church (national and local), an ability to work effectively across all traditions, a prayerful understanding of our deepest issues and a Gospel inspired vision".

The Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins, Canon Chancellor, Chichester Cathedral, and former Officer for Continuing Ministerial Development and Vicar of St John the Baptist, Hove