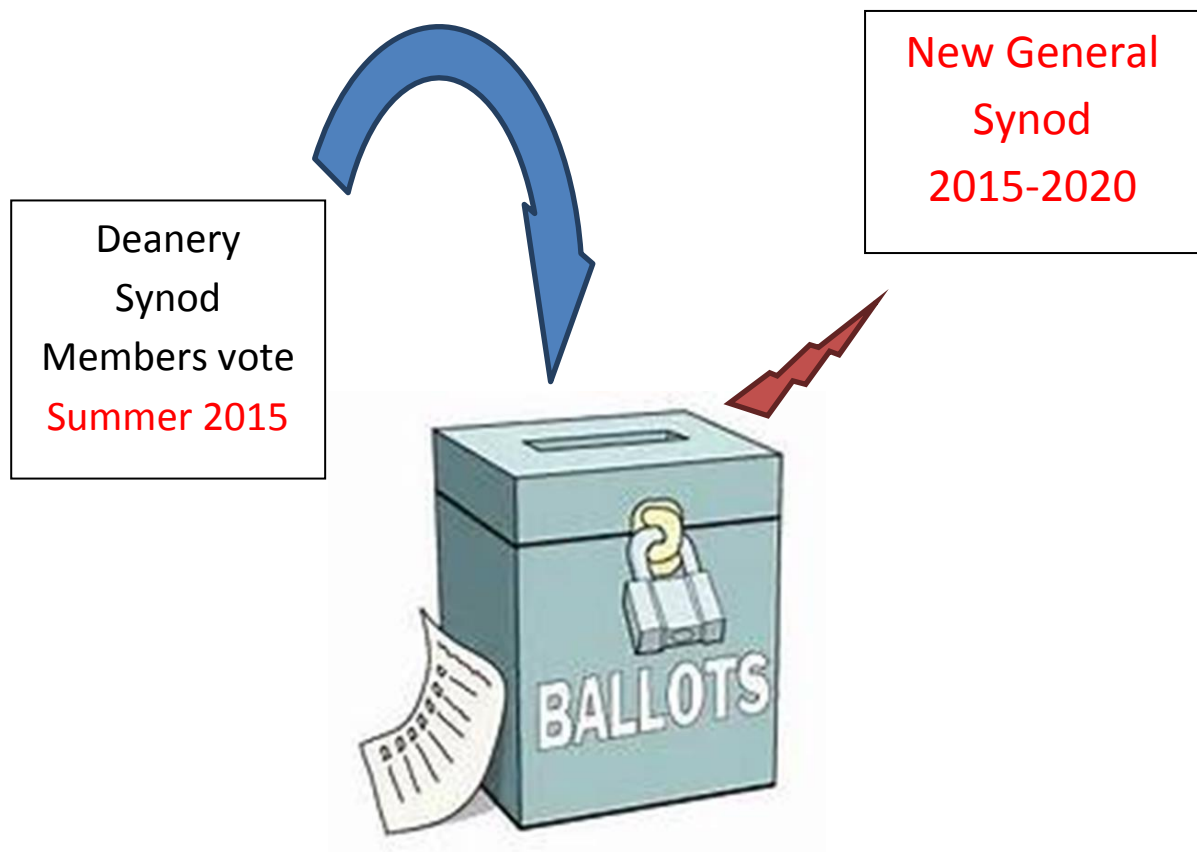




*General Synod 2015  
Campaign*

## General Synod Elections 2015



**CANDIDATES PACK**

# General Synod Elections 2015



*General Synod 2015  
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Why we need you to stand for election:- Do you remember what happened in November 2012 when the Women Bishop's measure failed to gain approval by just six votes in the House of Laity?



PA

## Church Times November 2012

### Women-bishops Measure falls by six votes in House of Laity

The draft Measure for the consecration of women bishops failed to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority in all three Houses of the General Synod, when the vote for final approval was taken after a protracted debate on Tuesday, just after 6.15 p.m.

Although it was carried in the House of Bishops by 44 to 3, with two abstentions, and in the House of Clergy by 148 to 45, with no abstentions, it was lost in the House of Laity. Here, there were 132 votes in favour, 74 against, with no abstentions; the Measure thus fell by six votes. Across all three Houses, 72.6 per cent of Synod members voted in favour of the legislation.

## Women-bishops Measure falls

We need General Synod Members who will represent the inclusive instincts of most people in England

## What is the General Synod Campaign 2015

The *General Synod Campaign 2015* is organised by Inclusive Church and funded by some of the key organisations in the Church of England, working together against discrimination:

- Affirming Catholicism
- Changing Attitude
- Group for Rescinding the Act of Synod (GRAS) which completed its work in 2014
- Inclusive Church
- Modern Church
- The Society of Catholic Priests (SCP)
- Women and the Church (WATCH)

**General Synod Campaign 2015** are working together to create the most favourable circumstances for the election of lay people and clergy to the General Synod. We seek people who will represent the will of the majority in the Church of England who want inclusion and oppose discrimination. We believe that a faithful church is generous, welcoming, inclusive and open - a church where everyone is able to participate fully in the life and leadership of the church, regardless of gender, ethnicity, wealth, sexual orientation or disability.

**Campaign Strategy:** Depending on the size of each Diocese we are aiming to encourage 3-5 excellent lay candidates to stand. We hope that potential candidates will make themselves known to us so that they can be publically supported.

We aim to:

- give advice on the election process and how to increase the chances of being elected
- give advice on how to write an election address
- publish the key dates in the process
- circulate details so that the electorate – Deanery Synod members – know which candidates are supported by the Campaign

## What is General Synod?

- The Church of England is *Episcopally* led and *Synodically* governed and the General Synod is its lead body. As well as being able to make Church law it is also the main forum for debates and discussions about all the matters which affect the Church of England. Set up in 1970 it's made up of 476 members, divided into the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. All Diocesan Bishops are automatically members, along with 8 Suffragans who are elected. Clergy and Laity are elected by Dioceses in proportion with the number of worshippers in that Diocese.
- Synod sits for a five year term, (a "quinquennium") and the next term starts in November 2015 running to July 2020.
- As well as defining church law on questions of liturgy and church order (for example, the new "common tenure" for clergy), it also debates matters affecting church life. There have been recent debates on, for example, the Bible, faith and religion, pensions for civil partners, Women Bishops and Forces chaplaincy.

## Current Issues

- As the mother church in the Worldwide Anglican Communion, The Church of England needs to maintain its distinctive position when many parts are culturally more excluding.
- In England it needs to reconnect in a positive inclusive way that people can respond to, making itself relevant to the communities it serves.
- It needs to revise many of the positions it takes on gender, sexuality, ethnicity & equality which reflect an earlier age.
- In the next 5 years there could be debates on: Human Sexuality; Same Sex Marriage; Multi Faith Britain; Young people and schools; Mission; Environment and Climate Change; Who leads the Church of England; The needs and contribution of older people; Just War; the Criminal Justice System; Medical Ethics.

**For more information about the General Synod see:**

[www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/about-general-synod.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/about-general-synod.aspx)

[www.churchofengland.org/media/40506/survivalguide.pdf](http://www.churchofengland.org/media/40506/survivalguide.pdf)

## Elections Timetable 2015

**Keep your eye on the dates involved!**

- Not later than 21st July – nomination papers sent to electors and election timetable presented
- Friday 4th September – Closing Date for nominations
- Friday 18th September – Issue of Ballot papers
- Friday 9th October – Final date for Return of Ballot papers
- 12th – 15th October – Count
- 23rd – 25th November – Inauguration of new General Synod.

## Checklist to increase your chances of being elected

### Before July 2015

- ✓ Tell your own Incumbent that you are thinking of standing
- ✓ Check out your eligibility and what it involves. A quick rule of thumb re eligibility is that you must be 18 or over, a communicant member of the Church of England, and on the electoral roll of the church you attend regularly.
- ✓ Make connections so that your name gets known at a Deanery/Diocesan level as these are the people who have the vote. If you are a member of Deanery or Diocesan Synod try to speak so that your name is known.
- ✓ Attend General Synod in the public gallery to see it for real (9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Feb London; 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July York) see [www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod.aspx) for more details.
- ✓ Let the **Campaign Co-ordinator, Revd Stephen France** know that you are standing (see page 2) so that your details can be circulated as a “Supported candidate”.
- ✓ Find someone already on General Synod who can give you advice about what’s involved and who can support you. Stephen France holds a list of potential mentors if you are unable to find someone locally to give you support.
- ✓ If you are on the Deanery/Diocesan synod you will receive the nomination papers by the end of July. If not you need to contact your PCC deanery representatives to get them to nominate you.

### By the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015

- ✓ You should have received your nomination paper. If not contact the Diocese Returning Officer.
- ✓ Complete the nomination form and find two eligible electors (Deanery Synod/Diocesan Synod members) to propose and second you as a good candidate.

### Closing date, Friday 4th September 2015 for Nominations

- ✓ There is an advantage in getting your nomination in as early as possible (even if your election address is sent later by 4<sup>th</sup> September) because once you are accepted as a candidate you can request the list of deanery synod members from the Returning Officer in your diocese (addresses/emails).

- ✓ Use the list to contact the Electors directly. The sooner you submit your nomination the longer you have to campaign. For example, sending in your nomination in by the end of July will give you an extra month to campaign as voting will start from late September.

### 21st July- 18<sup>th</sup> September

- ✓ **Write an election address:** Speak to your colleagues already on General Synod about how best to do this and look at the guide to writing an election address (pages 8-13). Some dioceses put these online. These must be submitted to the diocese by **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September at the latest**
- ✓ **Let people know you are standing:** Use social media to get your message across, if you can. It is vital to let as many electors know as you can that you propose to stand. Use anything you can to help you do this – emails, letters, gatherings/hustings, phone calls – and allow those who know you, including your diocesan contacts and church friendship and campaigning groups to help you.

#### An example of an email/letter seeking support



***Revd Stephen France***

Rector of xxxxxxxx

Address

Tel: xxxxxx

Email: xxxxxxxx

Dear Bob

#### **General Synod Elections 2015**

General Synod elections will soon be upon us and I wanted to write to seek your support. I am contacting everyone personally as I recognise that elected members have an important role in representing all the clergy of the diocese. I would endeavour to support all deacons, priests and bishops both male and female across the diocese to the best of my ability.

In the next five years the synod is likely to debate multi-faith Britain, human sexuality, young people and schools mission, and climate change. Having spent over ten years working in and around Parliament before ordination and as member of the Diocesan Synod and the Bishop's Council I hope that these experiences will give me a realistic understanding of the issues and what can be achieved in a changing world.

It would be my aim to work towards a church which is generous, welcoming, inclusive and open. A church where everyone is able to fully participate in the membership and leadership of the church, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, wealth, sexual orientation or disability.

I would be happy to discuss these issues with you if you would like?

I do hope that you will be able to give me your support – it would be much appreciated.

Many thanks, Stephen France

## Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October

- ✓ Ballot papers are issued on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September and need to be **returned by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**. If you are an elector as well then vote for yourself! See “How to use your vote” Appendix 2.
- ✓ Still possible to campaign but time is running out!

## Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Count

- ✓ You will be notified on which day the diocese will hold the count and you are entitled to be present if you wish. You will be notified within days of the outcome, in any case.

## 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November – Inauguration – Church House, Westminster

- ✓ If you are successful this is when you will officially become a member of the General Synod

## How to write an Election Address

So you're standing for General Synod. Here's how to maximise your chance of election with a brilliant Election Address.

### Rules and Regulations

It is no longer permissible for candidates to photocopy their own election addresses. To try to standardise numbers and (to a certain extent) styles, only one copy of the address is allowed to be produced by the candidate and sent to the diocesan presiding officer. The presiding officer will then arrange for sufficient copies to be made so that all electors receive a copy of all election addresses.

The good news is these reproduction and postage costs will be met by the diocese.

This means your address must be:

- 1 sheet of A4 paper, which can be printed on both sides
- Black and white, not colour.
- Received by the diocesan presiding officer by **Friday 4th September 2015**.

But that still leaves plenty of room for imagination and style!

### Tips on Format and Content

- A good photo on the front page is essential. Don't forget to smile!
- Use bullet points, good layout and don't waffle.



- Think twice about using two-sides when one might be enough!
- State the names of your proposer and seconder and give a brief synopsis of your work and voluntary experience, including all church involvement (e.g. member of PCC, deanery and diocesan synods, youth leader etc.)
- You might want to mention your age and personal circumstances
- Sell yourself. People want to know what you have done for your church.
- Set out your goals for General Synod and what you hope to achieve – but be realistic
- Set out your personal gifts - what you bring to the position outside work and voluntary experience. Again sell yourself and your dedication, commitment and express something of your personality.

### **On matters of inclusion:**

People sometimes use misleading language in their election addresses. For example *'in favour of women's ministry'* which omits the word "ordained" looks as if it is supportive of women priests/bishops but often means *'I do not accept women priests'*. Someone using the terms *'faithful'* or *'orthodox'* person is often someone who would not support women priests, all lesbian and gay people and anything non-traditional. *'Bible-based'* teaching can mean the same. It can be very difficult to extract the truth. So be clear and truthful. We don't play those games.

#### **Possible inclusive statement**

I would work towards creating a church which is generous, welcoming, inclusive and open. A church where everyone is able to fully participate in the membership and leadership of the church, regardless of gender, ethnicity, wealth, sexual orientation or disability.

- **Be clear and truthful but not confrontational.**

A candidate who presents their views in a very confrontational manner can expect to get a first preference vote of those who strongly agree with him/her but can be seen as an extremist to others who are less accepting in their views.

- **Don't forget to include your name and contact details**

## Examples of Inclusive Election Addresses

(Publically available in Nov 2014)

### **An example of an election address which is likely to be inclusive in a narrative style**

I write to ask for your vote in the coming elections. I currently serve as an ordained person on our diocesan synod and have previously served on deanery synods in three of the different dioceses in which I have lived.

The Church has been a part of my life as far back as I can remember and over the years, as our family has moved for work reasons I have been privileged to worship at many wonderful and radically different places, all of which have contributed to my knowledge and appreciation of the many strands of style and tradition which make up our great Anglican family.

I stand as someone who has 12 years experience of ordained ministry and a lifetime of experience of the Church. I grew up in rural x, later living for many years on the edge of y so I know something of the different challenges of both rural and suburban situations.

I stand as a woman. I believe that the ordination of women has brought greater riches and creativity to the ordained ministry and I look forward to the day when this complimentary ministry can enrich all aspects of the Church. I regret that it has become such a divisive issue, not least because I believe that the attitude of the Church towards women is hindering its primary mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to this generation.

I stand as someone who was a teacher before ordination and who remains committed to the education and development of the whole people of God, believing that God wants to see his people grow fully into their own humanity and set free to discover all his gifts. This has been reinforced by my time as a Vocations Chaplain and my experience as one of the group developing our diocesan course for lay people 'Exploring Christianity'.

I stand as someone who believes in the centrality of the Gospel and has always valued integrity and a generosity of spirit both in worship and relationships.

I ask for your vote and if elected I would seek to represent you on General Synod according to the above principles.

## **An inclusive Election Address in a modern bullet-point style**

### **Who Am I?**

- I am a xx year-old convinced Anglican in the liberal catholic tradition;
- I work as a Newly Qualified Teacher at a Secondary School in a challenging area of the diocese;
- This year I am studying part-time at x University for an MA in Education.
- Since 2009 I have served as x Diocesan Representative on the Church of England Youth Council (CEYC);
- I am a recent graduate of the University of y (History);

### **What Can I Offer?**

- A fresh pair of eyes;
- As a teacher I see first-hand some of the toughest challenges being faced by people around the diocese;
- At university I demonstrated a talent for motivating large groups of young people, and promoting their engagement with public institutions;
- Sitting on the CEYC I have developed some experience of national church administration, and of encouraging open dialogue about church issues.

### **What Do I Value In The Church?**

- As an established church, the CofE has an obligation to extend its ministry to all - regardless of whether they describe themselves as Christian. I value this, and wish to ensure the Church remains a welcoming and open-minded institution.
- The CofE can celebrate a great asset in its people. Our leadership contains some of the greatest minds of our nation, and our membership includes some of the most dedicated and loving people in our local communities.
- Our church enjoys a strong tradition of internal debate and collective decision-making across a range of issues. Although this can lead to difficult headlines, the process allows us to be flexible and embrace our changing world.

### **Women in the Episcopate**

- I am committed to finding a solution that will see women consecrated as bishops. This should be done with provision for those catholic and evangelical elements who cannot in conscience accept such a female episcopacy.
- The long-running debate about this issue has done a lot of damage to the church. As we move towards an internal solution, we must turn our minds to communicating the ideas behind our thinking to the outside world.

**And Finally: overleaf the Election address I wrote in 2010 to get elected!**

## ***Revd Stephen France SCP***

**Rector of St. Bartholomew's, Burwash**

**Rector of the Society of Catholic Priests,  
Chichester Chapter**

Address:

Tel:

Email:



Proposed by: x

Seconded by: y

### **Why vote for Stephen France?**

- Because what you see is what you will get!
- I am willing to stand up and be counted and say the things which others are not able to for many good reasons.
- I am determined to make a difference and move this diocese forward within the changing nature of the Church of England.

### **What does Stephen France stand for?**

- As Rector of the Society of Catholic Priests, Chichester Chapter, I work hard to support both men and women in the orders of deacon and priest.
- I would strive to ensure a smooth transition and acceptance for all women bishops.
- A desire to move forward beyond the all pervading "*current issues*" to refocus on the gospel we have to proclaim to this generation.
- As a member of the Diocesan Pastoral & Mission Committee I am well aware to the challenges facing many churches and I look to creative ways of meeting the needs of every generation.

### **What would Stephen France bring to the role?**

- A sense of humour and a pragmatic approach to areas of conflict and division.
- A skill in understanding and listening to issues and concerns and responding to these effectively.

- As a former Private Secretary to Government Ministers a deep understanding of politics and governance at play both nationally and within the church.
- I recognise the demands and rejoice in the privilege of serving God.

### **What sort of experience does Stephen France have?**

- Member of the Bishop's Council, Diocese of Chichester
- Member of the Diocesan Pastoral and Mission Committee
- Rector of the Society of Catholic Priests, Chichester Chapter
- Member of Dallington Deanery Synod, and standing committee
- Governor, Burwash C of England (Controlled) Primary School
- Chair, The Barnsley Trust – Charity

### **But what is Stephen France really like?**

- 44 year old priest with 10 years of ministry
- Married to an ordained priest – Revd Liz France
- One son – Toby (age 8 ¾)
- Born in Lancashire, raised in Yorkshire
- Full of life, joy and fun.

**Want to know more then please email or call me?**

## **Useful Contacts**

**For fuller information follow the link to the Church Representation Rules online**

[www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/church-representation-rules/church-representation-rules-online.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/church-representation-rules/church-representation-rules-online.aspx)

**Guidance to Dioceses about the General Synod Election Process**

[www.churchofengland.org/media/1666368/guidance%20for%20dioceses%202010%20final.pdf](http://www.churchofengland.org/media/1666368/guidance%20for%20dioceses%202010%20final.pdf)

**General Synod Survival Guide**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/40506/survivalguide.pdf>

### Everything you ever wanted to know about the Single Transferable Vote System

The Single Transferable Vote (STV) system is used to ensure that as many electors as possible are represented by members of their choice. It is trying to gain a consensus, electing candidates who are (more or less) generally acceptable, avoiding extremists and landslides.

#### How Is This Achieved?

By operating a preferential grading system where electors like you place a '1' against the name of your first choice and '2' against your second, '3' for third etc, as far as you wish or until the total number of candidates have been ranked.

Unlike the First Past the Post system, the STV system allows you the elector to express your support for more than one candidate. While your vote is valid as soon as a clear first choice has been expressed and so electors may only vote for one candidate if they so wish, **by ranking all your preferred candidates, you may find that if your first preference doesn't get in, your second or third may well do.**

#### The System Itself

If there are 3 places for election, the vote quota (i.e. the number of votes each candidate requires to be elected) is one quarter of the valid votes. That way, three quarters of the electors are thereby represented by members of their choice. If there are 4 to elect, the quota is one fifth and four fifths of the electors are represented by their choice and so on. In other words, the greater number to elect, the greater the proportion of electors are represented by members of their choice.

#### The Count

Without going into the mechanics of the counting procedure – which are mathematical and complicated – simply stated, it works like this:

- Stage 1: Any candidate receiving the quota (or more) of first preference votes is immediately elected.

- Stage 2: The surplus votes of the immediately successful candidates are transferred to the other candidates in proportion to their number of second preferences.
- Stage 3: If there is no surplus to transfer then the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes is excluded.
- Subsequent top-in, bottom-out stages are repeated as above until all places are filled.

### **Can the Vote be Split?**

No. It is not really possible to have too many good candidates. Unlike, the First Past the Post system, candidates who share views on crucial issues are helping each other, not standing against each other. They all appeal to individual electors like you who will rank them near each other and so all have an increased chance of getting in from each other's transferred votes. However, previous elections have shown that where an excessive number of people stand electors start to give up reading election addresses long before the last address and voting tails off further down the list you go. Depending on the size of Diocese we are therefore aiming to support 3-5 excellent, outstanding candidates.

### How to use your vote: -advice for Deanery Synod members when voting in the General Synod elections.

1. Make sure you VOTE! Of the three Houses in Synod, the House of Laity has consistently been more conservative, less inclusive and much less representative of its constituency. It is vital that lay members of Deanery Synods, who are the lay electorate, use their votes wisely.
2. Study the candidates' manifestos carefully. You will want to note gifts and experience, and look for indications of the candidate's attitude to Women Priests/Bishops. An inclusive candidate will make it clear that he or she wants women in the episcopate, on equal terms with men. Pay close attention to the precise words used. People sometimes use misleading language in their election addresses. For example '*in favour of women's ministry*' which omits the word "ordained" looks as if it is supportive of women priests/bishops but often means '*I do not accept women priests*'. Someone using the terms '*faithful*' or '*orthodox*' person is often someone who would not support women priests, all lesbian and gay people and anything non-traditional. '*Bible-based*' teaching can mean the same. It can be very difficult to extract the truth. Look through the election addresses and eliminate those who are obviously not inclusive.

#### An extract from a publically available election address which is likely to be non-inclusive.

##### What I pray for the Church of England

Stability: **to maintain faithfulness to God and his Gospel, believing and preaching what Scripture teaches** about the light and love that he brings in Christ, and living out the life of the age to come in our local church communities.

Perspective: **the ordination of women to the episcopate seems to be to be a secondary issue in Christian faith and practice.** I have been unhappy when some have sought to make it a primary issue by not permitting enough space within the C of E for those with theological objections still to stand happily in the fold.

National voice: **to contribute godly perspectives** on issues of injustice and world poverty, the sanctity of life, marriage and the family, the nurture of young people, popular culture and media, etc. We have a right to be heard, and a responsibility to play our part ever more fully in the 'Big Society'.

Confidence: **for nothing brash, but for confidence in God's leadership especially where Church and Society must differ; or where internal disagreements require both love and plain speaking.** For God to lift our hearts to him, and our eyes to the future.



3. Contact the remaining candidates by phone/email to ask direct questions eg. Do you support the ministry of ordained women as priests and bishops? How do you stand on matters of inclusion? Should gay people be ordained? Consult other inclusive friends if you are uncertain about someone's suitability. Be wary of any candidate who makes no reference whatsoever in his or her address to inclusive issues, particularly women bishops.

4. If there are Hustings in your diocese, go along and ask the candidates questions about their views. Be quite specific, and make sure you get a clear answer. If you don't, **do not vote for that candidate.**

5. Under the STV system, you are able to vote for more than one person, and you should make full use of that opportunity. Decide who amongst those standing would represent your views at Synod. Put them in order of preference, but vote **ONLY** for those in whom you feel confident. **DO NOT** vote at all for anyone whose views are at odds with your own. **DO NOT** feel obliged to vote for others. Leave those spaces blank.

#### **Election Tactic**

It is crucial therefore that as an elector you use all your ranking preferences when casting your vote and rank candidates who support your aims and those of this coalition as high as possible. **Stop voting once you end your list of preferred candidates.**

**Don't vote for those you would not want to have on Synod.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE**

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MORE INCLUSIVE**