



# CLAIRE JONES

 | For General Synod

Proposed by Revd Mike Smith (Reading Area Dean; Rector, Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham)



Seconded by Revd Jane Willis (Rector, Dorchester Abbey)

## PARISH ROLES

- Emmanuel Woodley (associate vicar)
- Bodmin Team Ministry (curate)
- Group of the Annunciation, Sunderland (CEMES)

## TEACHING

- Foundations in Christian Ministry, Diocese of Truro (co-lead, doctrine tutor)
- Cranmer Hall (guest lecturer, sexuality and gender)
- Wycliffe Hall (guest contributor, equality and diversity)

## PROJECTS & GROUPS

- Archbishops' College of Evangelists
- Young Priest Theologians Network
- Living in Love and Faith steering group (Dio. Truro)
- Ministry Strategy working group (Dio. Truro)
- Church of England Youth Council (Board of Education representative)
- Canterbury Preachers Companion 2025 (contributor)

## EDUCATION

- MA Theology and Ministry – distinction (Cranmer Hall)
- BA Theology – first class (Worcester College, Oxford)

## HELLO!

I'm standing for General Synod because being leader of a charismatic evangelical church, and also in a same-sex civil partnership, I work wholeheartedly for the **reconciliation in Christ** that the Church of England so badly needs.

As more and more clergy and lay Christians are discovering that both their **evangelical identity and inclusive theology** can be held together with integrity, I want to offer to Synod my experience of doing this over many years, and learning to flourish among difference and disagreement.

I came to faith at an early age in the conservative evangelical Anglican church in which I was taught and nurtured. From there I've taken with me a grounding in Scripture and doctrine, a passion for evangelism, and **deep joy in finding my place** in the family of God through Jesus Christ.

As part of the first cohort of **the Community of St Anselm** at Lambeth Palace, I was shaped by my time in intentional community with Christian siblings from across the world, many denominations and a wide spectrum of theological views and life experiences.

My vocation has always been to communication in some form: first as an editor for Christian Aid, and since then in writing, teaching and preaching alongside my commitment to parish ministry. I love to see Christians of all ages equipped to **share good news in their communities**. In every place I've served from Sunderland estates to central London, Cornish villages to the suburbs of Reading, I've prioritised evangelism and discipleship, especially among children and young people, in order that the whole church would play its part in God's mission.

As part of a job-sharing clergy couple juggling toddler-parenting with a busy ministry, I'd hope to bring a grounded sense of humour and realism to the serious business of Synod. I'd love **your first choice vote**, as we seek to discover together with confidence God's future for our Church.

Yours in Christ,

Claire



# PRIORITIES FOR SYNOD

## Living in Love and Faith

The remaining sessions of Synod in this quinquennium will need to pin down decisions and action to take the Church of England forward on these issues. I would work hard for a Church in which Christian same-sex partnerships are recognised as good and holy, and clergy are free to enter same-sex marriages.

I am committed to holding together a diversity of views on this issue, within local churches as well as the wider Church. I welcome the renewed emphasis in Synod on reconciliation, and would bring a wealth of on-the-ground experience to this task.

## Safeguarding

A key outworking of the gospel, safeguarding must be a priority at every level of ministry and governance.

I share the deep frustrations and disappointments of many survivors of abuse within the Church as we are still slow to listen, slow to change, and slow to bring about justice. I would pour energy into the necessary work of Synod to turn apologies into real action, and seek accountability where failures of safeguarding have led to lasting harm.

## Youth participation

As a young adult, I was deeply formed by being part of the Church of England Youth Council, serving on its core group and representing young people on the national Board of Education. I would work closely with those on Synod already championing the voices of young people in decision making and look for both the commitment and the resources needed to enable young people – and those from other underrepresented groups – to participate fully in shaping the future of the Church of England.

## HOW ABOUT YOU?

I genuinely believe the diversity of God's people is a great gift, and I'm keen to learn from those who have different lived experiences to me.

Being fairly new to the diocese, I'm enjoying getting to know a wide variety of people, so I'd love to have a coffee with you and hear your story too.



## GET IN TOUCH



[claire@emmanuelwoodley.org.uk](mailto:claire@emmanuelwoodley.org.uk)



07523817299



@RevClaireJones