

# Electoral Address – Reverend Hilary Jones



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Proposed by the Revd. Canon Sheila McLachlan  
Seconded by the Revd. David Adlington

For those of you who do not know me I have been ordained for 11 years and am currently Area Dean of Elham and Rector of the Cheriton with Newington Benefice. Our Benefice has four churches and I work with a team of two OLMs an NSM and two Readers. I am currently on Archbishop's council and am a member of the Women's Ministry group.

## Interests

### ▪ Education

Prior to ordination I taught Religious Studies and Geography in a Church of England Secondary School for 20 years. I was Key Stage 4 Manager in charge of years 9 to 11 as well as being the Examinations Secretary for the School. I am still passionate about education and have served on the Board of Education in the past as well as being Chair of Governors of two local Church Primary Schools. I take a lot of assemblies in the seven schools we have in our Benefice as well as occasionally teaching lessons. My interest in education also extends to clergy training. I have taught on both the Canterbury and Rochester leadership courses, acted as a Mentor for Curates on KCME for five years and jointly led a clergy training weekend for priests in Antsiranana Diocese in Madagascar.

### ▪ The World Church

Another interest is the World Church and in particular our Diocesan link with Madagascar. For many years I have been the treasurer for the Province of the Indian Ocean Support Association, a charity which supports the Anglican church in Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. I have recently stepped down as Chair of Canterbury World Awareness Group but remain on the Madagascar link committee. A few years ago I travelled with a Diocesan group to Madagascar for the opening of the new Cathedral in Antsiranana and then to the capital Antananarivo where we visited one of the projects we have supported through the Poverty and Hope Appeal and the Theological College. This really opened my eyes to the difficulties experienced by many of our fellow Christians in the Anglican Communion and to their different way of life.

### ▪ Women's Ministry

The other major diocesan role I undertook for four years was Bishop's Adviser for Women's Ministry. During this time I attended Senior Staff meetings fortnightly and spoke up on behalf of women. I am totally in favour of women becoming Bishops and

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believe that women should have a full role at all levels of the church. Although I am very sympathetic to those who, for theological reasons, believe that women should not be Bishops, I think that the time is now right for the Church of England to commit itself fully to women's ministry.

## Issues

If I was elected to go on to General Synod I would not be there just for the one issue of Women Bishops but would be fully committed to representing our Diocese in all issues that were discussed. My views on the various issues which are likely to be discussed at General Synod in the future are as follows:

- **Women in the Episcopate:** I am totally in favour and believe that there should be women in the episcopate on the same terms as the men.
- **Inclusivity:** I am in favour of a totally inclusive church.
- **Anglican Communion Covenant:** I am not in favour of the covenant as I believe it will make Anglicanism too prescriptive and not leave room for the diversity of opinion that has always been part of the make up of the Church of England.
- **Finances:** I would want to make sure that there is good stewardship and that spending is justified and for the good of the whole church.

## Why am I standing for election to General Synod?

I am very committed to the Church of England and its future and firmly believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in the changes that have to take place in the future. No institution can remain static for ever and it is important that the right and necessary changes happen that will make the Church of England relevant for future generations. I think it is an exciting time in the life of the Synod and I believe that I now have the experience necessary to be able to be part of the debate about the future. I also think it is important that we get a good mix of people on Synod and that at least one woman represents our Diocese.

## Why vote for me?

By voting for me you can ensure that our Diocese has at least one ordained woman on General Synod.

You can be confident that I will be totally committed to attending General Synod and voting on all issues.

*Hilary Jones*

If you have any questions or wish to speak to me, do contact me either by phone on 01303 238509, by e-mail at [revhilaryjones@binternet.com](mailto:revhilaryjones@binternet.com) or at the address overleaf.