



Hello, I am asking for your vote for the upcoming Casual Vacancy election to General Synod because I have a wealth of experience around ministry, mission, governance, education, communication and spent several years representing communities at a regional and national level.

Lesley JONES

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We live in a time of great change for our nation as well as the Church of England. I feel I can be a strong voice for the North East at General Synod: born and raised in Sunderland, I trained for ordination with Lindisfarne, served as a curate in North Wearside and now as an incumbent in Jarrow and Simonside. All of this means I have a deep understanding of many areas of the diocese which enables me to represent Durham on behalf of clergy leading churches and ministering in different contexts across the diocese as well as serving for three years as a self-supporting minister. I have a particular passion for encouraging churches to become places where everyone feels welcome and where all gifts are recognized as we worship, learn and grow together – including our shared ministry of presence and of generous hospitality; I am keen to see churches where we truly are the hands and feet of the Lord as we care for one another and people in our communities. I hope to see a Church of England where clergy well-being is taken more seriously and support the PMM (Private Member's Motion) on restoring Clergy Pensions and boosting options in retirement.

I am married to Richard (30 years this year) and we have one daughter, Rosie, (27) and we share our home with two adorable doodles, Pippin and Merry.

Lesley Jones (May 2025)

Background Experience

Late '90's & Early '00's

- Lots of **experience representing** people and places as a Dorset County Councillor;
- **Consistent.** Ran an environmental campaign over four years to protect a community of 65,000 people.
- Supporting at a national level as **MP's Assistant** in Westminster & Constituency.

Mid '00's to Ordination

- Trained for Ordination with **Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership**
- Ordained in Durham Diocese – Deacon 2012, Priest 2013.

Mid '00's

- I joined the staff at **The Venerable Bede C of E Secondary School**, Sunderland, in '05 to cover for someone on maternity leave - by the time I left in 2013, I was a priest moving to Canterbury Diocese.
- Swapping Education Committees at the council for a school environment gave me an insight and **experience working with children, young people and families.** Nationally as we seek to become a '**younger church**', I am keen to speak up around resources, sharing best practice so that all communities can flourish.



Diocese of Durham - General Synod Casual Vacancy



Current Roles/Groups

- **Incumbent/Training Incumbent** in the Parish of Jarrow and Simonside, in South Tyneside.
- **Surrogate** for Jarrow Deanery;
- Chair of **Lindisfarne Alumni Association**;
- Member of the **Society of Catholic Priests** and **WATCH**, supporter of **Together for the C of E**, **Inclusive Church** and **National Estates Churches Network**.

Tackling Poverty

I believe that the Church of England, as the national church, needs to be present for everyone in society with a bias towards the marginalized and those caught up in poverty, and if elected I will continue to speak up on this issue.

The North East has some of the highest rates of child poverty in the country – here in South Tyneside 1 in 3 children are growing up in the poverty trap - something I believe we cannot ignore if we say we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

I have consistently looked for practical ways in which churches can support communities through projects that ease financial pressures and the isolation poverty brings. This includes a number of projects delivered with community partners in Durham and Canterbury dioceses:

- **‘One for the Basket’** helping food banks;
- Set up a **Community Bank & Hub**;
- Introduced a **Community Wardrobe**;
- Opened a **Breakfast Club** for vulnerable/homeless adults;
- Supported **Places of Welcome**, **Warm Spaces** and access to **Free Debt Advice**.

Call/Text: 07881 555580

or Email: revlesleyjones@gmail.com

At a Glance

- **Encouraging Ministry** and clergy well-being in service and in retirement;
- **Inclusivity**. Being a church where **everyone is welcome** and all can flourish;
- **Tackling Poverty** supporting post-industrial and **low-income communities**

Encouraging Ministry

where all can flourish

It is vital we support clergy well-being including their conditions of service. I support the upcoming motion to restore the clergy pension to the 2/3rd's level and also see the need for long-term thinking on sustainable clergy remuneration and housing - including retirement housing - as well as clear access to practical support for clergy and members of their family when they need it.

Everyone is Welcome

I believe in an inclusive church which does not discriminate and where there is a space for all at the table. I believe the Prayers of Love and Faith should be available for clergy to use where pastorally appropriate - on an opt-in basis - and also respect the right of clergy not to use the prayers as a matter of theological conscience.

We need to listen to one another and allow space for people to minister according to their calling and conscience, respecting differences and finding our unity in Christ. I also support the General Synod's work in developing a national strategy to support people from working class backgrounds through the process of discernment, training and ordination.

Lesley JONES

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