

# Jane Rosam



I am standing for the House of Laity of General Synod and am asking for your first or second preference Vote.

I have been nominated by Christina Hodson and seconded by Hilary Morgan, both from Tonbridge Deanery who know me well and believe that I am well placed to serve the Synod.

I am a farmer and in my second year of Licensed Lay Ministry (Reader) training in Rochester Diocese. Earlier this year I completed the Bishop's Certificate and was blessed to be presented with it by Bishop James in one of his final acts before retirement. I worship at St Peter's church in Hever (opposite the Hever Castle) and have been active at parish, deanery and archdeaconry level. I now feel called to serve the church through General Synod.

I am passionate about Everyday Faith and wish to contribute to the flourishing of the Church of England and, most importantly, to enable everyone in this country to live life in all its fullness through knowledge of the Gospel.

I am married to Joanna and we have lived and farmed in Kent for 25 years, the majority spent in Hever, where I have served on the PCC, various church committees and was a Churchwarden for 7 years. I am also a member of the Tonbridge Archdeaconry Steering Group.

## **My working experience also includes:**

- Working for both Church Army and Church Housing in direct access hostels for the homeless
- Resettlement and Housing Management for young single homeless in the Stopover project in South London.
- Volunteer Co-ordinator for South London Charities
- Board member for South London Family Housing Association.

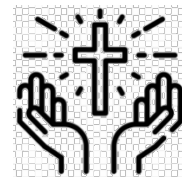
This time working with the marginalised and socially excluded gave me a deep understanding of poverty and exclusion and enabled me to develop both communication and advocacy skills.

**Farming, with its obvious connection to creation, has been for me a way of living my life of faith in everyday spirituality guided by the Spirit. I have lived this within my parish as follows:**

- Worshipping every week, reading and leading intercessions.
- Establishing and running an Eco Forest Church.
- Running a monthly and very popular parish lunch.
- Pastoral and community engagement initiatives including walks, Farm Church, Barn Dances and cycle rides.
- Member of Anglican Society for Welfare of Animals and follower of Compassion in World Farming.

I am aware and briefed on many of current issues – Living in Love and Faith, Clergy Discipline Measures, Safeguarding and IICSA, Resource Churches and more. I am particularly passionate about the following:

**Mission should be at the heart of who we are.** As we no longer live in a society where all those around us have either a good knowledge or understanding of Christian Faith, it is vital to reach out to all those who do not (yet) know the power or comfort of God in their lives. Good Worship and Good Hospitality – with a mixed economy of styles, is key to engaging outside of our church communities, meeting people where they are at in their lives. This includes physically and socially, as well as spiritually.



**Inclusion.** I believe in a church for everyone, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, mental health, socio-economic status or sexuality. We are all made in God's image, invited to the Lord's table and loved equally. I am fully supportive of women's ministry, equality for LGBT+ Christians, at all levels and in all roles in the church. As a gay woman I have experienced exclusion first hand and am well placed to challenge prejudice and strive for change.

**Listening to each other.** Pastoral principles for living and learning well together have taught us much and shown that we are at our best when we value and listen honestly to each other. Ours is a wonderful broad church, where we have far more that unites us than divides us, even though we are under strain when we deal with difficult issues. Now is a time when the Church of England faces important decisions about its future direction and I want to help us all listen well.



**Safeguarding** is integral to all we do and strive to do. It is my firm belief that we all have a responsibility to safeguard and that this is not just the responsibility of one or two people within a church and wider community context.

**Climate Change and caring for creation** is a genuine emergency. I fully welcome The commitment by General Synod to become carbon net zero by 2030 and the challenge for us all is to work out how to achieve this. Our often ancient buildings can make this a challenge, but we can succeed with gentle steps whilst listening to expertise and guidance.



**Clergy wellbeing** is vital to the health of the church. As with all caring professions, particularly following the pressures of Covid, ministers are vulnerable to overwork and burnout. When problems arise, we need a sensitive and effective system which offers resolution to these genuine issues, in a safe and supportive way.

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Thank you for reading my electoral statement, I hope you will give me your first preference vote because if you really believe in inclusion I am very well placed to deliver, especially through Living in Love and Faith. If you wish to contact me, I will be happy to hear from you.

**Jane Rosam**

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*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together..... But encouraging one another.....” Hebrews 10:23-25*