



Jasmine Copp

Age: 22

Church: St. Marys, Oxted

Deanery: Tandridge

Email: jasmine_cpp@hotmail.com

My interest in the General Synod was sparked after I'd joined PCC and Deanery Synod a few years ago. I realised the significant value of having a wide variety of individuals to create a fair and balanced view in discussions and decision-making. In the General Synod, I'd bring a fresh viewpoint as a young Christian having experienced the world and its issues from a young person's perspective. I have found this is a unique vantage point, always finding myself the youngest when involved in Church groups.

Climate change is a social justice issue, it affects the poorest people the most and as Christians we have a responsibility to help and protect them. If elected, I intend to work with other members to push for more environmentally conscious decision making, focusing on ways in which we can help to lessen the impact of our actions on the planet. This is one of the most urgent issues of our time and we need to act faster than we are (at all levels, from the government and large corporations to those of us who are choosing to eat one more vegetarian meal a week). I want to action plan to help us meet the General Synods 2030 Net Zero carbon target and give each body and individual real, actionable tasks to move towards this goal.

Furthermore, as I have grown up in my church, I have witnessed the decline of a youth presence. It appears that there is a disconnect between the Church and young people, not just those who are already present in churches, but those who are in our local communities. At an age where one is old enough to have some independence but young enough to be naive to the world, young people are vulnerable and need support. We need to look at other ways to minister to this group, I feel that as our society continues to change, so must we. We cannot simply reuse existing resources and methods of outreach, instead we need to find new ways to connect and support a new youth. Whilst the youth disconnect is worrying, I feel hopeful and excited that there is a way to bring about a change and continue supporting young people and encouraging more young people to experience God and His love. My work with young people and children, coupled with my church upbringing and current experience of youth in Church is going to really help me complete valuable work in this area, I look forward to it.

I know I can bring so much to the discussions and decisions at General Synod, I do feel strongly that at 22 years old God is guiding me down this path, showing me that I have a helpful and distinctive viewpoint on the issues we face as Christians today. I want to bring about change that helps us protect and support the most vulnerable groups in our society, and beyond. With a seat in the General Synod I will be able to make the changes that we need, for our planet and for the groups and individuals who we need to help.

Please do contact me if you want to learn more about me or my application.
God bless.

Jasmine