



# News Release

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## Lee Gatiss looks to Archbishop for credible action after positive words

'I welcome Archbishop Justin Welby's Presidential Address to General Synod ([www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5251/archbishops-presidential-address-to-the-general-synod](http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5251/archbishops-presidential-address-to-the-general-synod)) this morning, particularly his important reminder to us all that 'where God is involved, there is no limit to what can happen, and no limit to human flourishing.' He is absolutely right that if the Church of England is to live out its commitment to see conservative evangelicals flourish 'there is going to have to be a massive cultural change' that some may find threatening. I deeply sympathise with him when he confesses that this may be a hard course to steer, but am heartened when he says 'Yet I know it is right that we set such a course and hold to it through thick and thin.'

After this candid speech, we are looking to him, in a positive and hopeful way, to make the claim that he wants evangelicals like us to flourish in the Church truly credible. He could do that in two ways: first, by engaging conservatives in real dialogue, listening in detail to our concerns; and second, encouraging and ensuring the appointment of 12 Conservative Evangelical Bishops.

A commitment in this area would convince us, including many young evangelicals exploring vocations, of the sincerity of the House of Bishops' claim that they wish to provide for our flourishing. It would be a welcome game-changer in creating trust from our constituency. In an episcopal system, to which we are happily committed, this would be a very persuasive sign that we have a future.'

Lee Gatiss  
Director, Church Society.

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*Church Society exists to uphold biblical teaching and to promote and defend the character of the Church of England as a reformed and national Church. For further information visit [www.churchsociety.org](http://www.churchsociety.org)*