



GENERAL SYNOD RESULTS ANALYSIS: Preliminary Response from WATCH (Women and the Church)

WATCH considers that reports that those opposed to women bishops have made gains in the recent Synod elections are premature. There is no evidence that this view is based on an accurate analysis of results. WATCH notes that some significant figures against the consecration of women have lost their seats, and that more women clergy have been elected. Many candidates did not declare their views about the draft legislation for women bishops before the elections.

"We are 18 months away from the opportunity for General Synod members to vote on the issue. During that time every Diocese will be discussing and voting on the Draft Legislation, including the considerable provisions it includes for those who will not accept women as priests or bishops. General Synod members will be listening carefully to those debates. We expect there to be widespread support across the Dioceses to proceed to consecrate women bishops on the basis of this legislation without further delay", said Hilary Cotton, Vice-Chair of WATCH.

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