

Dr Janette Allotey

Proposer: Mr Bryan Coghlan Seconder: Dr Gill Appleton



In the words of Pope Francis, 'our greatest power is not in the respect that others have for us, but the service we can offer others'

Thank you in anticipation, for reading this address. I hope you will consider **allocating me a 'high priority' vote**

The ongoing world crises have exposed our shared vulnerabilities and *'neglect of what nourishes and strengthens the life of the community ... and how we have failed to pay attention to the suffering all around us'*. It has also shown us how we are capable of acting in adversity (Pope Francis). Opportunities to use new forms of communication have emerged, and online church services have created new ways of providing spiritual care to a sizeable group of people, some of whom would not or could not normally attend church services.

The time is ripe to build a better society and a greater sense of community, and it is therefore an exciting and challenging time to be elected to serve in the House of Laity of General Synod.

If elected I hope to work with other members from Chester diocese to ensure that parishioners are made more aware of the current work of the Synod.

As someone who was confirmed relatively recently and is quite new to church politics, I believe I can represent the views of the 'average person in the pew'. I also retain something of an outsider's perspective, and can thus readily associate with the feelings of people who have not yet felt God's love, as we work to bring about a church which is welcoming, inclusive and plays a leading role in addressing the challenges which currently face the church and society.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Worship at St Mary's, Nantwich

Member of Deanery Synod and PCC
Recently appointed to Diocesan Synod

Church steward
Assistant archivist
Tea lady and cake baker for church activities (*a very important role!*)
A local LLF co-facilitator with a member of the clergy

Previously volunteered at St Paul's Centre in Crewe

Currently a volunteer at Nantwich Museum – I curated the current exhibition there

Worked in the NHS for 39 years as a nurse, midwife and then lecturer in midwifery

Trained and practised in London, Lincolnshire and Stoke-on-Trent

Lecturer at the University of Manchester for 14 years until retirement in 2014

Freelance researcher and writer on the history of midwifery and childbirth

I support the principles of the following organisations and initiatives, and undertake to promote their aims:

Coming Home – the Archbishops’ Commission on Housing Church and Community <https://tinyurl.com/dt7ru375>

Eco Church – aligning institutional practices and individual behaviour in caring for God’s earth.
<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk>

Inclusive Church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. I am proud to be supported by Inclusive Church as a candidate, and am committed to equality for everyone within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.
<https://www.inclusive-church.org>
Heartening progress has been made in fully including people with learning disabilities, dementia, and mental health issues. This work needs to grow and deepen.

Save the Parish – the parish is the best means of evangelism and is at the heart of the Church of England, but currently its sustainability is in question. ‘Expensive’ clergy training is also at risk of being watered down. Careful deliberations need to continue, since pastoral re-organisation and strategic developments may potentially lead to further irreversible church closures and stipendiary clergy redundancies.
<https://savetheparish.com/>

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A word of thanks: I am very humbled by the support I have received from my parish priest and from lay members of previous General Synods, some of whom are standing for re-election .



God stands with the oppressed

The church needs to respond to the social injustice and discrimination experienced by marginalised groups

Notions of inclusion and social justice should radiate from parishes and be reflected back

Inter-faith and inter-denominational efforts towards world peace should be redoubled, with urgent efforts made by churches to provide for the needs of refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere

Efforts must be made to rebuild public trust following publication of the findings of IICSA and the forthcoming Smyth Review. These should include rigorous processes of institutional self-examination and the fullest possible restitution to victims

Lord Boateng (new Chair of the recently launched Archbishops’ Racial Justice Commission) said: “Racism is a gaping wound in the body of Christ’s church. Our mandate as a Commission is not only to bind but to heal.” General Synod will in due course be involved in addressing its recommendations

To contact me to discuss my address, or for written details of the aims of the organisations listed above, contact **Janette Allotey** on 01270 669589 or email me: alloteyjanette@gmail.com