

Kat Champion-Spall

I am standing for General Synod because I'm passionate about parish ministry, I care about clergy wellbeing, I'm committed to the Diocese of Bristol and I love the Church of England

Proposed by Mark Pilgrim (General Synod 2009-2021)

Seconded by Michael Johnson (Associate Archdeacon)

I would welcome your first preference vote



Who am I?

I've been part of the Church of England since childhood, growing up in a rural church and claiming the Christian faith for my own as a teenager through Alpha. At 16 my vicar asked me to join the Mission and Evangelism Committee, at 18 I was a volunteer at the Lambeth Conference – my introduction to Church of England governance! Since then I have been involved in Church governance at every level.

Before ordination I worked with people with learning disabilities, in volunteer training and development, and in university chaplaincy. In my twenties I was a lay member of **General Synod** from 2005-2010 for Southwark, so I have experience of the demands of Synod and an understanding of how it works. Through that I was a member of the Transformations Steering Group at **national Church** level so have insight into institutional processes and levers.

I was ordained in 2010 and served a curacy in a suburban parish in Southwark. I've been part of the **Diocese of Bristol** since 2014 when I took up the role of Associate Vicar at St Mary Redcliffe, a large historic church in central Bristol where my ministry centres on **mission, community, children's and youth ministry, and discipleship**. I am a parish priest at heart and I love talking to people about God whether in a school assembly, a discipleship group, a funeral visit or spiritual accompaniment. It is my joy in ministry to enable people to encounter God, grow in faith and find purpose as disciples and servants of Christ.

I have served on **Diocesan Synod** since 2015 and **Bishop's Council** since 2016, and was appointed **Dean of Women's Ministry** last year. Since moving here, I have worked hard to get to know clergy colleagues from across the Diocese, and I'm looking forward to events being in person once again and the opportunities they give us to make new connections in the coffee queue.

What would I bring to Synod?

- **Experience** of General Synod and **knowledge** of the Diocese of Bristol
- A desire for **the wellbeing of clergy** supported by structures that enables us to thrive in our ministries
- A commitment to an **inclusive church** that enables every person to find their place and live out their calling in the body of Christ
- An ability to think **strategically** and work with the processes that make things happen in the Church of England

What is important to me?

This is a critical time for the Church of England as big decisions are made about our future. In many places, current patterns of ministry are simply not sustainable either financially or personally for those in ministry. Yet I believe that **parish ministry** is one of the treasures of our church and our nation. We may need to reimagine parish ministry for the future, but we must not lose it.

Clergy wellbeing is of utmost importance to the wellbeing of the church. The traditional binary of full-time stipendiary and SSM ministry is not ideal for many clergy and we need to be more creative about the options for ministry and deployment to enable people to find a pattern of ministry that is sustainable and life-giving. There are structural, legal and financial complications, but General Synod is the place where structures and laws can be changed. Many of us will have seen colleagues burdened by a **Clergy Discipline Measure** process that feels isolating, unbalanced and uncaring. I would like to see a CDM process that is fit for purpose – fair, transparent and timely, that protects vulnerable people while weeding out vexatious or malicious complaints, and that gives clergy access to good support during the process.

The **climate crisis** is probably the most pressing ethical issue of our age. The Church has a crucial missional opportunity to be prophetic in how we care for God's creation through our discipleship, our finances and our buildings and land. Our Diocese has led the way in declaring a climate emergency and divesting from fossil fuels and I would be keen to ensure that nationally the Church is leading on environmental issues.

I have worked hard with others in the Diocese to encourage a diverse field of candidates for this election because I believe in a church that celebrates and affirms God's image in every person regardless of their age, gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. **Inclusion** and **diversity** are hugely important social issues today, and as a church we have an opportunity to speak about Jesus' message of welcome into the questions of our society. I hope and pray that the Living in Love and Faith process will enable us to listen deeply, carefully and humbly - to one another, especially those whose voices have too often been silenced or ignored, and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit – and that where we discern the need to change, we will have the courage to do so.

'Kat's wealth of experience - including previous membership of General Synod as a lay person - will be of enormous benefit to Bristol's General Synod team.' *Mark Pilgrim, proposer*

'Kat brings wisdom and insight to her roles on Bishops Council and as Dean of Women's Ministry, delivered with clarity, passion and a deep desire for the church's wellbeing and growth. Please give her your first vote.' *Michael Johnson, seconder*

Thank you for taking the time to read this. For an **open, experienced** and **caring** General Synod member, please consider voting for me. Voting is by single transferable vote so if you are intending to vote for me, please put me as your first or high preference. Voting closes on Friday 8th October.

I would be very happy to hear from you if you have any questions.



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