



My background: I am happily married, 34 years now. Two of our 4 children are now married and we have a granddaughter, all are currently local to Leicester so we get to see them regularly. I continue to attend Church of the Martyrs and I am a Reader there, co-lead a playgroup and lead a homegroup. We are an Intercultural Worshipping community and also aim to be intergenerational amongst other things. I regularly attend staff meetings and we try to ensure we always hold these aims within what we do. I try to be following where God is leading me and make time for my own discipleship having time with God on my own as well as with others.

I have been on General Synod for 11 years, the last 6 I've been a member of the Liturgical Commission having served on revision committees during my first 5 years. General Synod is an unusual setting that I found can take a number of years to become familiar with in order to learn how to best interact with it. This is because you only meet twice a year (in different venues) even though it's for a few days, there are many different procedures to get your head around; motions, presentations, legislation, amendments, take note reports, questions for a few.

I have used the experience I have gained to enable others from our diocese to engage and work with General Synod procedures. That knowledge has also been useful to speak into items coming to Bishops Council (which I have been on for a number of years), as well as at diocesan synod, deanery meetings and within the parish. The reverse is also true, parish, deanery and diocese insights have helped me speak into the national setting.

As you might imagine the last 6 years have been eventful and after being one of those invited to attend a reduced synod in September 2020, we have had General Synod on-line using zoom. A very different experience to in person and certainly reduced some of what we could do but it did enable us to vote on various items. I have continued to be blessed by being asked to lead worship at Synod both in person and on-line. I believe my presence at General Synod is helpful to others and not just those in our diocese, there is still much I can learn, add and share from being on General Synod for another term.

There is plenty of work to get our heads and hearts around, recognising where God is leading us, the ongoing Living in love and faith, and the much needed work around Racial justice and how structures are being changed to encourage diversity, also the everyday faith work growing within discipleship. Much of the work is about changing culture and attitudes so relates to how we speak with and about each other and therefore takes time. I find it really encouraging, exciting and challenging, with many of these changes needing to be reflected in our own diocese, deaneries and parishes.

Moving forwards, our communication lines between each of those will be key and it would be great to see these improved during the next group of sessions. I would hope that my experience and knowledge could help with that as I am more familiar with how some of

these areas currently work or don't and I am now more known within the diocese to help enable that change.

The national Vision and Strategy continues to be more clearly defined, and work around that continues to be developed. In much the same way as our diocese is discovering; how is our vision reflected in who we are? not just what we do but also how we do it.

I would really appreciate your first vote so I can be there to enable others to engage more quickly into the various settings of General Synod, whether that be laity or clergy. Giving not just information about how procedures work but some of the history of the journey we have been on. I have been fully committed to the time I have been on General Synod and I believe this has fed positively into the various voluntary roles I have had within the Diocese, which have been varied and numerous over the last 6 years. Please enable this to continue. God bless, Shayne.