

## Revd Wendy Dalrymple

Nominated by: Revd Adrian Jones  
Assistant Area Dean of Leicester City Deanery  
Seconded by: Revd Alison Booker  
Area Dean of Launde Deanery

Thank you for taking the time to read my election address as I stand for General Synod in the upcoming elections. I hope what follows gives you a flavour of who I am, what I feel I can bring and where I stand on a number of key issues but please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would value a conversation as you discern who to vote for.



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### Background

I came to the Diocese of Leicester in May 2015 having felt a real sense of calling to my current post as Rector of the historic parish church of Loughborough. The mixture of liturgical and sacramental worship serving an ethnically and economically diverse parish in a university town felt like a good fit and continues to do so. Prior to this I was vicar of two small village churches on the Sussex/Surrey border, chaplain to an Academy School near Brighton and served my curacy in West Yorkshire in a multi parish benefice. My faith was nurtured in the Methodist Church where I learnt to preach and to sing (and still think you can't beat a rousing Wesley hymn sandwich!) spent time working for churches as a Youth Worker running Youth Alpha in the very early days of its development and was formed for ordination at the College of the Resurrection. Whilst training I had something of an Anglo Catholic conversion encountering God's presence through clouds of incense and in the context of community where, as the first cohort of women to attend, we all had to deal with the realities of being the body of Christ when we profoundly disagree. All of these experiences shape who I am and how I approach ministry within the Church of England as someone committed to a broad church where our diversity is our strength.

### What I feel I can bring to General Synod

#### **An understanding of synodical governance structures**

As an Area Dean for the last five years, member of Bishop's Council, Diocesan Synod and most recently Chair of House of Clergy, I have a fairly good grasp of how the synodical process works knowing something of the opportunities and challenges that lie within such a system. I trust that the Holy Spirit can and is at work in and through our governance, as an Episcopally led and synodically governed church.

#### **A willingness to challenge and ask questions with an openness to hear others**

I will always speak up if I feel something needs challenging or a different perspective needs bringing into the room. I am often the person in a meeting who asks the question which others tell me afterwards they too were thinking. But within this I am not afraid to change my mind and value hearing from those I disagree with to shape my own thinking.

#### **A love of the Church of England**

As someone who felt called by God into the Anglican church over 20 years ago, I am convinced that God is not done with us yet! For all the challenges we face and our imperfections I remain hopeful for the mission and ministry of the Church of England and would bring that energy and sense of purpose to my time on General Synod.

## **Key issues**

### **Human Sexuality and the follow up to Living in Love and Faith**

I have been outspoken on matters of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the church for a number of years as part of my own understanding of what it means to be faithful to Jesus in the age in which I live. I was delighted to see the steps the Methodist Church and the Church in Wales have recently taken and would be hoping for a change in that direction for the Church of England too. However, I recognise that we have these conversations on holy ground and that those who disagree with me do so from a place of love of the Lord Jesus too. I shall be taking part in an LLF course in the diocese this autumn because I recognise that I need to listen deeply to those with whom I disagree. I am hoping that the model of 'mutual flourishing' over the ordination and consecration of women, however imperfect that may be, provides a way ahead for us to live with theological difference over this issue too.

### **Parish Church versus New Communities**

I am first and foremost a parish priest, committed to the old fashioned idea that as the Church of England we have a particular gift within the wider ecumenical body of Christ to be a faithful presence in our communities ministering to those who will never consider themselves disciples of Jesus as well as to the committed community of faith. I will always champion the unseen and unsung work of ministry that never appears on stats for mission but that is priceless in the economy of the kingdom of God. However, this does not need to be at the exclusion of fresh expressions and new communities and in fact work best when they exist in relationship to one another. The questions I will be asking at General Synod will be around how we resource the new whilst valuing the old.

### **Climate Emergency**

I recognise that the climate crisis is the biggest challenge of our lifetime and therefore as a national church we must play a part in speaking and acting to combat this. General Synod can set the tone for how we approach this at both local and national level and I shall be looking to see where we can make changes to our financial portfolio to bring about change.