

Jesus said even the tiniest faith can move mountains, what impact will our faithful choices have? **Matthew**

17:20



Jesus said love your God and love your neighbour as yourself, we must show others respect, compassion, and love, there's no greater commandment **Mark 12:31**

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Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the spirit... hold onto what is good... the one who calls you is faithful and He will do it. **1 Thess. 5:16-24**

If nothing ever changed there'd be no butterflies. – In an everchanging world our constant is God. We can trust in Him even through our struggles, He is near.

Mrs Sylvia A Bainbridge

General Synod (House of Laity) candidate 2021

Proposer: Beth Flashman (Cheadle with Freehay)
Seconder: Kate Bradshaw (Draycott with Forsbrook)

Dear friends,

It is a real honour to be given an opportunity to stand for General Synod here in my home diocese of Lichfield. I have been involved in the diocese for a short time compared to some, however, I believe that just as Jesus' followers were of every age, we too are all called in God's time for His purposes. I was baptised and grew up in Stretton, near Burton before moving to Cheadle in 2000, until leaving to university to train to be an RE teacher at the University of Cumbria in 2008, during these three years I began following God's call into ministry. This is also where I met my husband, Dan, and we began married life.

Dan and I are blessed to have two beautiful children, Jacob is 7 with complex special needs, and Elsie is 4 and began reception this September. We live in Meir and worship in the Cheadle deanery, most Sundays in the united benefice of Dilhorne, Caverswall and Weston Coyney. I have worked across the Diocese of Lichfield specialising in youth and children's ministry and intergenerational activities for over a decade.

My commitment to young people and raising up more young people in an aging church is well known. I also have spent the majority of the pandemic working and volunteering with a charity supporting vulnerable and hard to reach families and individuals. This has been at times extremely challenging but also so rewarding. I love to question, but am also very practical. As part of our Shaping for Mission in Cheadle deanery I am encourager in seeking sustainability.

I am standing for election because I believe I have the energy, the drive, and the passion to make a useful contribution to the next term of Synod. I feel that I offer something different and new. I value and praise those who have been part of my journey, and look forward to representing them in the future. I know that if we don't change and try new things, that the church will die out. However, I also value tradition and the safety of presence that church provides to the community. I support difference, and always try to fight against injustice, advocating for those whose voice might not otherwise be heard.

It would be a privilege to represent this wonderful Diocese at General Synod and I hope I can earn your trust and support. If you ask me to represent you on General Synod, I will ensure there is clear communication not only from Synod to the diocese and deaneries, but most importantly from parishes through to Synod. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any matter relating to the elections to General Synod 2021.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sylvia A Bainbridge'.

Mrs Sylvia Amanda Bainbridge