

Pam Davies - Bolton Deanery

Candidate for General Synod

My Background

My name is Pam Davies, I am 64, married to Tony, and have 2 grown-up children.

For 13 years I worked as a medical laboratory scientific officer in Welwyn Garden City and London, followed by 5 years in Swinton as a dinner lady and classroom helper, listening to readers. After this, I worked as a biomedical research technician for a further 17 years, the last 15 of which have been in my current post at Salford Royal Hospital. I hold a Master's degree in Molecular Parasitology and Vector Biology. My hobbies include reading, particularly historical detective stories; cake decorating (I am a member of the British Sugarcraft Guild); and scuba diving (I am a qualified PADI Rescue Diver).



I have been a member of the Church of England for 40 years, having come to faith at a Dick Saunders evangelical rally in London, and have attended several churches, St. Gabriel's, Cricklewood; St. George's, Stalybridge; All Saints, Wardley and currently St Augustine's, Tonge Moor, Bolton.

I regularly go on parish pilgrimage to Walsingham, and have also attended the Capernwray Ladies Bible weekend for the last 4 years. I have received many blessings from both the catholic and evangelical nature of these places of worship and retreat.

My Involvement within the Church

Ecumenical

- I represented my parish on the Building Bridges project, which sought to build and develop links between local churches and organisations, the local authority and other public bodies.

The continuation of the links formed during this project is important to me, and I look forward to being involved in the next chapter of this initiative.

Parochial

- I've served on 2 PCCs over the last 20 years. Roles in my present parish:
 - Serving on the Mission Action Planning (MAP) committee.
 - Stewardship Secretary.
 - Member of the choir.
 - Have been our Mothers' Union branch leader.

Deanery

- Active member of Walmsley Deanery Synod since 2011
- Served on the Mission and Pastoral committee helping to formulate the Deanery's MAP.
- Elected in 2012 and 2016 to represent Walmsley Deanery on Diocesan Synod.
- Elected to represent the new Bolton Deanery this year.

The Church at a National Level

The Church of England faces many challenges in the coming years, but **Parochial Ministry** is essential to the nature of the Church of England. The spread of Mission Community-type arrangements has the potential to offer shared resources and experience, but we need to avoid the risk that the rights of individual churches and parishioners may be subsumed by centralised planning, which would lead to the loss of the richness and diversity that is the hallmark and strength of the Church of England.

As we have fewer clergy to minister in our churches, it is vitally important that we do all that we can to maintain their health and well-being. The current **Clergy Discipline Measure** has been shown to be flawed, slow and unfair to both clergy and parishioners. The recent report into a priest's suicide and into allegations made against a canon chancellor is just further evidence of this. The new Clergy Conduct Measure must:

- Allow for genuine complaints and misconduct to be dealt with in a timely and thorough manner;
- Reduce the amount of unnecessary pain and distress for all parties concerned;
- Be fully debated and be fit for purpose.

The consequences of **Climate Change** have been emphasised recently with devastating flooding, wildfires and drought, and the IPCC recently published its "wake-up call" Report. General Synod has committed the Church of England to become carbon neutral by 2030. Synod needs to:

- Make substantial proposals that are realistic and achievable in our churches, Deaneries and Dioceses
- Teach the importance of valuing, respecting and preserving the gift of our beautiful and diverse world that we have been given by God.

Racial Justice is another important issue, and the report "From Lament to Action" proposes changes necessary to the Church, and sets out 47 specific actions to be undertaken. In considering these recommendations, General Synod must:

- Avoid the temptation to, for example, erase or rewrite history, but learn from it;
- Ensure that the actions undertaken address the many factors holding back UK Minority Ethnic/ Global Majority Heritage Anglicans from being more involved in the life and leadership of the church, whilst at the same time avoiding tokenism.

The Church of England's **breadth of diversity** is its strength, and I fully support and encourage all efforts to enable every part of the church to flourish. I feel that my training as a scientist has taught me to think objectively, and has instilled patience. If elected, I would be honoured to serve the Manchester Diocese on General Synod, calling on all of my experience gained over the last 40 years.

My thanks to Joyce Vickers, Bolton Deanery, for proposing me, and to Anthony Aspden, Salford and Leigh Deanery, for seconding my nomination.

If you wish to contact me my email address is pam@davieses.co.uk

Thank you for reading my address, and I would ask that you prayerfully consider giving me your first, or high preference, vote in the General Synod election.