

Emily Hill

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I was born into a life in the church and I've been a regular member of congregations in various churches across Hereford Diocese. I chose to be confirmed when I was 10 and this was a real turning point in my faith where I chose to make it my own and explore and question more.

I support the Living in Love and Faith movement that allows for everyone at any level in the church, from bishops to laity, to form their own opinions on inclusivity in the church, including making decisions regarding same sex relationships and marriage.

If voted onto General Synod I hope to grow our church and provide a national voice among our diocesan, deanery and parish church communities. If given the opportunity, I can learn new ways and ideas that have worked across other churches and bring them back to support the growth of our communities.

Finance in the Church of England is an issue facing many of our local PCCs and threatening the positions of our ordained clergy. Whilst I encourage lay led ministry, I feel it is also important that our parishes have sufficient guidance from clergy to aid us in our mission and help us to learn more about our faith and question our identities in Christ. There are many churches across our diocese and country that are having to compromise their aims due to insufficient clergy members and amalgamation of parishes into large benefices. If elected I would use my votes to support the funding for the training and ministry of clergy, and the missionary aims in our Church.

If elected to General Synod, I would aim to keep decisions in the church at a local level and give laity and parishes the power to make a difference to their local community. I would vote for a simpler church that gives the congregations the support and resources it needs to be a powerful presence and grow its church community. I hope to encourage local parishes to provide a wide range of worship opportunities, beyond the traditional Sunday morning service.

I aim to be a young, positive female voice in the church and hope to be part of its growth and change, making it fit for future generations.

One a more personal note, I am 21 years old and training to be a nurse in the NHS. Throughout the pandemic I have worked on the Covid ward at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, which I've found to be both rewarding and challenging.

I would appreciate your first preference vote, and I hope to serve you as a member of the next General Synod.