

Revd. Kate Wharton (age 43)

St. Bart's Vicarage, 11 Church Road,
Roby, Liverpool, L36 9TL
0151 4891698, 07957 247581

vicar@stbartholomewsrobby.org.uk

feel free to contact me to discuss any aspect of my application



★ **Currents posts:**

Vicar of St. Bart's Church

Vice Chair of Governors, Huyton with Roby CE Primary School

Assistant National Leader of New Wine

Trustee of St. Mellitus College

★ **Recent experience & responsibilities:**

Member of Bishop's Council (since 2010)

Member of Diocesan Synod (since 2009)

Regular speaker at various Christian conferences and events, both in England and overseas

Regular contributor on Radio Merseyside and UCB Radio

Author of 'Single Minded' (published June 2013)

Contributing author to 'Awesome Voices' (published November 2013), '7 Reasons Your Church Needs More Men' (published October 2018), and 'Healthy Faith' (published May 2020)

★ **Previously:**

Member of General Synod (2015-2021)

Chair of Governors of The Beacon CE Primary School (2009-2017)

Vicar of St. George's Everton (2009-2017)

Member of Chaplaincy team working among D/deaf people in Liverpool Diocese (2005-2013)

Governor of Archbishop Blanch CE School (2005-2010)

Assistant Curate at St Luke's West Derby (2005-2009)

Ordinand at Wycliffe Hall (2002-2005)

Pastoral Assistant at St. George's Leeds (2001-2002)

Speech and Language Therapist (2000-2001)

Student at Leeds Metropolitan University (1997-2000)

Shop assistant at K Shoes (1996-1997)

★ **Other stuff:**

My main hobby is fencing (the type with swords, not wooden posts), which is how I spend most Monday evenings. I would be considerably better at it if I had started some time before the age of 38. I also enjoy the cinema, the theatre, crafts, travelling, and spending time with my Godchildren.

★ **Why General Synod? Why now? Why me?**

I've been a member of General Synod for the past 5 years (well 6, in fact, in the end!). I've really enjoyed it, and learnt a lot. I've made a number of speeches on a wide variety of subjects. I'd love the opportunity to build on that knowledge and experience by being elected for another term. I'm passionate about the Church of England – its missional opportunities, its parish system, its rich history and yes, even its strange and sometimes unwieldy structures! My view is that we can't just sit on the sidelines and complain that things aren't going the way we'd like them to – we have to show up and get involved.

★ **Areas of interest:**

☆ Mission and evangelism

- × The Archbishop of Canterbury (Liverpool's very own!) Justin Welby has said that "*The best decision that anyone can ever make, at any time, in any place, is to follow Jesus Christ.*" He made evangelism one of his three priorities for his time as ABC. It's surely got to be one of our

priorities too, as Christians, as clergy, and as Synod. I'm committed to helping to equip all Christians to speak well of their faith and to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [them] to give the reason for the hope that [they] have."

☆ Urban ministry

✘ When I was a student in Leeds I joined a church plant from a city centre church onto a housing estate, which met in a tiny community centre. There my passion for urban ministry was formed, and it grew as I later worked for that church as pastoral assistant. When I went to Wycliffe Hall to train for ordination I was already passionate about urban ministry. The first 12 years of my ordained life were spent in 'urban priority areas' and I am massively committed to living and working in these areas of our cities. I'm passionate about sharing and living out the gospel in deprived urban areas, and about seeing people in those areas come to know Jesus, and work out what it means to be disciples there.

☆ Working with and among disabled and D/deaf people

✘ As a speech and language therapist some of my work was with disabled children and adults. For 10 years I was involved with the 'Our Place' ministry at New Wine's summer gathering, working with disabled children, young people and adults, and with their families. I have BSL Level 3 and worked for a while as part of the Liverpool Diocesan Chaplaincy team working among D/deaf people. I think that unfortunately we have a long way to go before our churches are truly inclusive of and accessible for disabled people, but I believe it's something towards which we must aim.

☆ Environmental issues

✘ At the February 2020 General Synod, I was one of the majority of the Synod who voted in favour of setting a target of 2030 for the Church of England to reach net zero emissions. It was a moment which felt full of responsibility and possibility. The original motion had the date of 2045, and an amendment passed to bring that forward. As I voted, I knew what a massive task we were setting for ourselves and the whole Church of England, but I also felt that it was a task that we simply had to face head on. I look forward to ongoing discussion through the next Synod as to how we might work towards achieving this ambitious target.

☆ Singleness/Relationships/Sexuality

✘ I'm single, and celibate. Several years ago I wrote a book called "Single Minded", which is an encouragement to all people to live lives devoted to Jesus, whatever their circumstances. I'm passionate about encouraging all single people to live "life to the full," and about equipping churches to support and include single people. I also believe that we need to widen our discussions to include issues around sexual purity for all people. I hold a traditional view of marriage, and I am totally committed to ongoing dialogue with those of different viewpoints, as I have shown over recent years. I was glad to take part in the Church of England's facilitated 'Shared Conversations' a few years ago, and have engaged fully in the LLF process within General Synod. If we're to avoid the Church of England splitting over this issue (and I wholeheartedly hope that we can), we will need to commit to ongoing dialogue which is kind, gracious, wise, and truthful.

☆ Children and young people

✘ I went to church from the age of 3 and came to faith in Jesus at the age of 12, but struggled as a young person to find a 'spiritual home' where I could be supported and discipled and ask the questions that I wanted to ask (there weren't many people in my church under 60!). I'm delighted that at St. Bart's we have around 85 under 18s who worship with us on a Sunday (unfortunately not all at the same time!), and we have contact with many more through our links with Huyton with Roby CE School (where I'm also Vice Chair of Governors), Malvern School, and Roby Park School. I'm committed to finding ways to share faith with children and young people, to enabling them to take their place within the worship of our churches, and to supporting churches to make whatever adjustments they might need to in order to ensure that can happen.

Proposer: The Venerable Simon Fisher, Archdeacon of St. Helens and Warrington

Secunder: The Reverend Sarah O'Donoghue, Vicar of Christ Church Aughton