

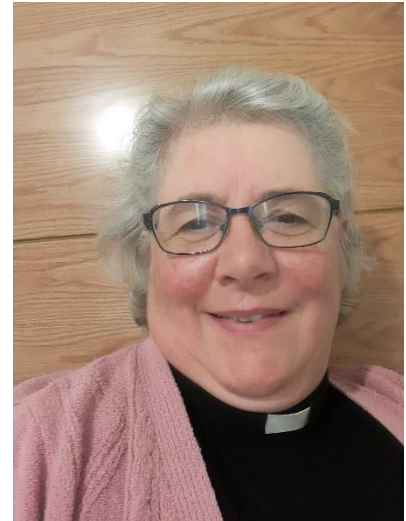
Sue Rose

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Nominated by Revd Chris Butler,
Vicar of Pilton with Croscombe, North Wotton & Dinder

Seconded by the Ven Simon Hill
Archdeacon of Taunton

General Synod Rep from 2010



About me

Family - Daughter, sister, wife, mother and grandmother; my nomadic life (17 homes and counting) has led me to value family as a constant in an ever-changing landscape. It also means I have friends from all stages and ages littered around the countryside!

Career wise - I initially trained as a teacher, a job I enjoyed for 7 years (with 5 years 'out' due to the arrival of 2 of our own 4 children – the other 2 made their appearance during ordination training and curacy) It was fantastic to enable young children to discover about themselves and their world; hopefully helping them to find their wings and start to fly.

In ministry - When the 1994 vote allowing women to be ordained went through, I could no longer ignore my own calling to ordained ministry. After selection and training I moved to Bath and Wells for my curacy where I have served ever since. My curacy and first incumbency were in the Alfred Jewel Benefice outside Bridgwater. After 11 years there I moved to become rector of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke for a further 6 years. In both those rural, multi-parish benefices I enjoyed sharing the challenge and joy of leading those congregations in their journey of faith, being alongside parishioners at those highly charged, life changing moments of birth, death, marriage, school changes and leaving. There were also the countless 'ordinary' encounters in the shops or pub, at the school gate and walking the dog that arise out of living embedded in the community when a chance word gave an opening to speak of Jesus and faith. In both Sedgemoor and Axbridge deaneries I also had the privilege of being Rural Dean, supporting my clergy and lay colleagues in mission and ministry. For the last 6 years I have worked in the diocesan offices as Vocations Team Leader, encouraging, enabling and equipping people to respond to their calling as lay and ordained ministers.

My faith – I am a cradle Anglican, who remains grateful to my parents for their faithful example and teaching. In our many childhood homes they made it a priority to find loving church families to which we belonged. The traditions of those churches varied but the sense of belonging was a constant. The same has been true in my adult life; as we have experienced mostly multi parish rural contexts but also both high and low; large city churches in which I have learned that what matters in worship is integrity and authenticity rather than the number of candles or types of music.

At General Synod

I would love the opportunity to continue to represent you at General Synod, as I have done for the last 11 years. I believe that working in the diocesan offices gives me a unique standpoint to offer to Synod and back to our diocese. I am not the most vociferous on Synod, preferring to only speak on topics where I have a genuine expertise or experience to offer into the debate. I am however assiduous at attending, expecting to be in the chamber for the vast majority of the sessions, including the less eye-catching matters!

Every quinquennium faces its own particular challenges as together we seek to proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation - and this period will be no different! Some of the questions will remain the same; there will be **financial matters** to weigh and consider, not least in the wake of the pandemic. Our diocese like all others is being re-shaped partly in response to the financial challenges that have been highlighted over the last 18 months. At a national level the church must also decide how best to use its financial resources to further the work of the kingdom both in how it invests and in how it spends those precious resources.

Coming as I do, from a rural, multi-parish background, I am passionate about the place of the church in the midst of the communities that it serves. I believe there is real and genuine need for the traditional, incarnational model of **parochial ministry**. I also believe that this must be alongside an equally real and vital **pioneering outlook** that looks for the new thing God is doing in each and every place and finds ways to join in with that work. In our diocese we know we face particular challenges around buildings, demographics and finances but we also know we have a God who is faithful. Your representatives at Synod can share the stories we hear in our diocese with the wider church whilst also bringing back the good practice we learn from others.

In the last group of sessions at Synod I had the opportunity to vote in the climate emergency debate. You will know that we committed the church to work towards becoming a zero-carbon organisation by 2030. In this next period we will need to continue to address this issue, clothing that commitment with action, encouraging and inspiring individual Christians to make appropriate lifestyle choices. We will need to look again at some of the legal challenges that hinder the desire of PCC's and DAC's from making this a reality.

One of the big issues this Synod will face is that of **inclusion**. I believe God calls all his children to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, mental health or sexuality. Having been on Synod during the debates about women bishops I also know the importance of listening carefully to all point of view in order to find ways of achieving this God given imperative whilst remaining in the highest possible degree of communion with those who hold a different theological stance.

Thankyou for taking the time to read this address. If you have any questions you'd like to ask me, do get in touch, my email address is at the head of this address.

Finally **please vote** in these elections. Obviously, I'd like you to give me your first or a high preference vote, but even more importantly, please use the new, easy, online option to participate in this election.