

Reverend Dr Julie Bowen. Vicar of St Andrew's, Bromley. School Chaplain to St Olave's Church of England Grammar School, Orpington.

I stand for election to General Synod as a point five Parish Priest and a point five School Chaplain, experiencing ministry in different and varied contexts, across both physical and spiritual boundaries and traditions. I believe completely in the Parish system viewing it as the scaffolding on which we build mission and pioneer ministry. The local church is the center of the local community and reflects this in its community involvement and multipurpose usage and appeal.

I have vast experience in Education and working with young people in new and affective ways, providing the support they need, particularly with regard to their development, mental health and wellbeing. Education has to be an important issue in the continuing life of the Church of England. Another key issue is the development and progress of the Clergy Covenant, clergy housing and how we take care of those who give their life to serve the church and their families. The pandemic has revealed and compounded the greater needs of mental health and wellbeing, care and help, protection and safeguarding for all within the church but particularly for clergy.

There are also the clear issues of money and national budgets which need attention and how these impact on local ministry provision in all areas of the country. The church declares itself to be here for everyone based in scripture and tradition but also reason. We need to be working together in clusters and groups, clergy and laity, building together, working to our strengths and supporting one another. I believe in the synodical form of government playing an active role in Deanery and Diocesan synods both in a lay and clergy capacity, as well as serving on the Board of Education and then Bishops Council.

I would be honoured to be given the opportunity to serve and work as part of General Synod; setting the vision for the future, shaping legislation and working to strengthen the role and impact of Our Church of England in all our communities; working for equality, equity and parity; for justice and flourishing for all; supporting the homeless and disadvantaged, the disabled and refugees as well as those wonderful faithful servants of the local church who have given so much to keep our churches open and working, whose commitment has given us a future transforming churches and people.

I may only be one voice but I am not one to rush to judgement and I will always listen, weigh up, examine and pray over things giving my voice and support to those who need it. I have been described as perceptive and thoughtful, hardworking and faithful. I hope you feel able to put your trust in me to serve you and our Lord on General Synod. Thank you.