



The Revd Rachel Claire Wilson

I was elected a member of General Synod for the first time in February 2018. I will strive to be an active member of General Synod, actively seeking the views of others and keeping people in the parish, deanery and Diocese informed of the work of the Synod. I believe passionately both in the capacity of General Synod to affect real change and in the need for Synod to be better representative of the body of Christ and of the church on whose behalf it legislates.

I am currently vicar of St Thomas, Southborough, where I have served for 5 years. I am a member of MOSAIC – Movement of Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church. I am also Bishop's Adviser on Disability and a Bishop's Adviser in the Shared Discernment Process.

Before ordination I worked in a number of roles including training, personnel, and the civil service, where I worked as a Job Coach, supporting those with additional barriers to work, such as poor literacy or drug and alcohol dependency.

My own church tradition is Liberal Catholic, though in my worship and ministry I have experience of a range of church traditions. I have the capacity to listen sensitively to the views of people who speak from a range of perspectives, including those which are different from my own. This ability to listen openly is I believe critical if we are to become a church which is truly welcoming of all God's people.

My lived experience of being a wheelchair user with cerebral palsy, of course gives me an interest in matters relating to disability but I am someone who will be prepared to speak on a range of issues; social justice, inclusion, environmental matters and ethical investment, to name but a few.

Over the last 18 months, during the pandemic, many of us have had the experience of being excluded from church for the first time. For others, that sense of being excluded from church will be neither a new, nor a transitory one. I sincerely hope that we can use both our experience of isolation and the new opportunities which COVID has presented, as a means of building a church, both within and beyond its walls, which is inclusive and welcoming of everyone. I hope this will be more than mere lip service; that we will embrace the need for a radical hospitality which recognises the value and place of everyone, working actively, with joy and enthusiasm in enabling individuals to flourish, both within the church and within themselves

If the church is to be fit for the years ahead, we need to take seriously the reasons why people feel alienated from the church, disengaged or simply disinterested in what we have to share. I believe we will do that most effectively by retaining the best of what we already have, whilst accepting the harm that we have done, unwittingly or otherwise and seeking to live differently in the years ahead. It is my prayer that we can live joyfully, inclusively, sustainably and in a way that embraces both our challenges and opportunities with an excitement and an expectation that God will be at work in the midst of them. I look forward to seeing the outworking of God's purposes

The Revd Rachel Wilson
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