

The Venerable Liz Jackson - Candidate for General Synod

- **Why I am standing**

I am standing for General Synod because I love the Church of England, believe deeply in its vocation to proclaim the Gospel, and want to help ensure that our parishes, clergy and lay leaders are equipped to flourish in God's mission.

Throughout my ministry I have sought to follow Jesus by building communities of hope, welcome and transformation. Whether working with children and families, supporting people experiencing homelessness, empowering newly arrived communities, serving as a parish priest, or now as Archdeacon of Walsall, my focus has remained the same: helping people encounter Christ and enabling churches to participate in the growth of God's Kingdom.

- **About me**

I come from a working-class background and was not raised within the Church. I came to faith as a young adult and have spent nearly thirty years serving in a wide variety of roles: Reader, churchwarden, PCC treasurer, youth and families worker, parish priest, area dean and now archdeacon.

These experiences have given me a deep appreciation of parish ministry, and an understanding of the realities faced by clergy, churchwardens, PCCs and congregations. I know the joys and challenges of local ministry because I have lived them.

- **What I would bring to General Synod**

1. *A commitment to thriving parishes*

I believe the parish remains one of the Church of England's greatest gifts to the nation.

Parishes are where faith is nurtured, disciples are formed, communities are served and people encounter Christ at the most significant moments of their lives. I want to see investment in the future of our parishes, helping them grow in confidence, discipleship, mission and sustainability.

2. *A commitment to clergy wellbeing*

As an archdeacon, one of my greatest privileges has been supporting clergy and their families. Ministry can be deeply rewarding, but it can also be demanding and isolating.

I want to see a Church that takes clergy wellbeing seriously, creates healthy cultures, and enables ministers not merely to survive but to flourish in their calling.

3. *Experience of governance and change*

General Synod makes decisions that affect every parish.

My experience as an archdeacon has given me a strong understanding of governance, safeguarding, finance, pastoral reorganisation, ministry

development and the practical implications of national policy. I would bring both strategic thinking and practical experience to Synod's work.

4. *Inclusion, dignity and belonging*

I believe every person is made in the image of God and called to share fully in the life of the Church.

I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the Church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.

I support the flourishing of LGBTQ+ people in the life of the Church and believe we are called to become communities where people experience belonging, dignity and love.

At the same time, I am committed to listening respectfully and working constructively with those who hold different views from my own.

5. *Raising under-represented voices*

The Church is strongest when all God's people are able to contribute their gifts.

I have a particular passion for encouraging and supporting those whose voices have too often been overlooked, including working-class people, lay ministers, women, younger people, people with disabilities and neurodiverse people, and those from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Throughout my ministry I have sought to create opportunities for others to lead and flourish.

- **Looking ahead**

The Church faces significant challenges, but I remain very hopeful about its future.

Across our parishes I see faithful disciples, courageous clergy, dedicated lay leaders and communities seeking to follow Jesus, serve their neighbours and build up the Kingdom of God.

If elected, I will work prayerfully, thoughtfully and collaboratively to support the flourishing of our parishes, the wellbeing of our clergy and lay leaders, and the Church's calling to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in every community.

Thank you for reading this statement. I would be honoured to receive your first preference vote.

The Venerable Liz Jackson
Archdeacon of Walsall