

Christine Burgess

Standing for the House of Laity of General Synod

Nominated by Peter Clarke (secretary Kendal Deanery Synod 2015–present)

Seconded by Pam Martin (member Kendal Deanery 2011–present)

About me

I am 62, married with four grown-up children and have lived in Kendal for most of my life. I love Kendal, and feel called to serve the church through General Synod. I've worshipped at St Thomas' Kendal since I was a child and have experienced first hand all the wonderful benefits of being part of a church community. I am currently active at both parish and deanery level.



Working Experience

I worked for over twenty years as an English teacher in a range of different contexts. This gave me a heart for young people and an appreciation for the many ways that we can feel valued and heard. This has informed my belief that our church communities can be places that hold to tradition as well as being open to new and creative ways of expression and worship. I recognise the need to continue to find ways of being present in today's society, offering the love of Christ to all.

Life in Church

I have been involved in church all of my life, and became a Christian when I was twelve years old. I have always had a questioning faith, and would describe my journey as often exciting, never boring and sometimes challenging. While faith is a deeply personal experience, some of the ways I live it out include:

- Worshipping every week with the church family at St Thomas' and being nurtured and challenged by sermons and God's family
- Being a church warden, and encouraging members of the church family to help with communion. I'm now a deputy warden, welcoming people and being on duty throughout the service
- Leading a church Parent and Toddler group, firstly when our children were small, and after our children were grown up
- Leading the Winter Shelter team at St Thomas', where we offer a meal and a bed and breakfast each week to rough sleepers during the winter months
- Leading a Life Group (home group)
- Serving on PCC and Deanery Synod

*Don't forget to use your vote! Votes must be in by **Friday 8th October***

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Standing for the House of Laity of General Synod

I feel called to serve on General Synod, as the Church of England faces important decisions about its future direction. I remain optimistic about all that the Church has to offer and would like to be a voice in support of issues such as the following:

Mission and Growth

The church is uniquely placed to engage in civic life in a way that creates connections with individuals who may not previously have been to church. I have seen this in my own experience in leading both a Parent and Toddler group and the Winter Shelter initiative in Kendal. As the Church faces difficulties with a decline in attendance, sustaining and building on these kinds of ministries need ongoing support and resourcing.

Service in the Community

I have seen how the church grows when it is there for the community, particularly for those in need. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted all sorts of inequalities in society, but also how the church can be Christ in the world during times of crisis.

Inclusion

I believe in a church for everyone, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. We are all made in God's image and are all invited to the Lord's table. I am fully supportive of women's ministry and equality for LGBT+ Christians, at all levels and in all roles in the church.

Listening to each other

I value the breadth of the Church of England and believe that our strength is in our differences. I think it's essential that we try to listen honestly to each other and value one another, even when this is not easy. I would describe myself as an open evangelical and I'm keen to work with representatives of every tradition within the church. I welcome the current debates especially around Living in Love and Faith, Clergy Discipline Measure, Safeguarding and IICSA. I believe that these kinds of reforms help to keep our churches healthy and also to protect the most vulnerable.

Thanks for taking the time to read this - I hope you will give me your vote.

If you want to contact me about anything I would be very happy to hear from you.

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