

## General Synod Election Address/Statement.

After a fairly conventional post-war childhood coming through Sunday School and confirmation in an Anglican church with bells but no smells, my student days confronted me with the other end of the spectrum and opened my eyes to the Bible, not the vicar, being the vital reference point for the answer to life's great questions.



Later, married with a baby daughter (now forty-three with a sister just turned forty, both with four children of their own) a wise and godly vicar patiently explored with me where my faith should be leading. Pushed to categorise myself now, I would say that I am an evangelical Christian practising in the Anglican church, but very pro ecumenism and very open to the Bible being a book for all people for all time, ie that its truths are eternal, but that not all things (although definitely some of them) are to be taken literally.

Whilst in paid employment as a teacher in an 11-18 boys' state comprehensive school, I ran the Christian Union for fifteen years and attended various styles of worship services with its members. Outside school, church commitments have variously included editing the parish magazine, bell ringing, Junior Church teaching and membership of the PCC, Deanery and Diocesan Synods in Winchester, Derby, St Albans and Carlisle dioceses (but not simultaneously!).

A Gift Discovery weekend in St Albans diocese put me on the road to Readership and I was finally licensed at Cartmel Priory in October 2009. Since then my ministry has been largely peripatetic in South Calder Mission Community's seventeen mainly very rural churches, as well as those of the Methodist circuit.

Feeling at first akin to Shakespeare's Malvolio, although in my case it is standing for General Synod rather than greatness that has been thrust upon me, thought and prayer have led me to believe that Synod could indeed be something to which God is calling me. Therefore, "thrust" is the wrong word and "encouraged" or "urged" the right one. Things are changing rapidly in the world and in the Church. We no longer have a bedrock of certainties and beliefs to which all subscribe and the new Synod is sure to have to confront moral and behavioural issues which would have been unthinkable even twenty years ago. As stated above, I believe that whilst some Biblical teachings can and should be adapted to fit the twenty-first century, others should be left well alone. Membership of General Synod would allow me to voice these understandings, defend them when necessary and debate them in a (hopefully!) calm and rational environment. Furthermore, media coverage of Synod debates should bring to the attention of the public at large that God's people are alive and active. The two-edged sword of Hebrews 4:12 must still make itself felt.

Rosalind Amey. Laity, Diocese of Carlisle. 28.08.2021.