

Christine Burgess laity

Proposed; Judith Harrison,
lay chair Appleby Deanery

Seconded; Peter Clarke,
lay secretary Kendal deanery



If re-elected to General Synod, I would;

- Make every effort to understand the issues being debated
- Be open to the views and opinions of others
- Be present for the whole agenda and not just matters of popular interest

About me

The reason that I'm standing is that I want the Church to be more inclusive. Before retirement I taught English in a secondary school. In my church I help to run a parent and toddler group, I coordinate a Life Group, and I do some wardening for our Sunday services. I have lived in Cumbria for most of my life, and although my church is in a town, I am aware of the challenges and joys of rural churches, and all that they offer in terms of preaching the Gospel and being a loving community.

Children and families

It is a privilege to serve our children in church, and I am very grateful for the Children and Families' Leaders and Coordinators in our diocese. As a national church, we need to do all that we can to support and encourage work with children, families and young people.

Inclusion

I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of economic power, disability, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. I support the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith for those parishes that opt in, and I support the right of those parishes who choose not to opt in, to not use them. I'm aware that some of us will disagree with each about this, and I ask that we disagree well.

Climate Change and Care of God's Creation

This is an urgent issue for us as individuals and for our churches. I embrace the Church of England's position;

- Worship God – we honour God when we care for creation.
- Work for justice – climate change hits hardest the poorest countries and poorest people of the world.
- Show love for neighbours, locally and globally.

Racial Justice

We live in a society where, when there is an atmosphere of ignorance and prejudice, racism thrives. We need to:

- Call it out in our church locally and nationally.
- Recognise that Christianity is a World Religion.
- Be curious about monuments in our churches linked to enslaved people; do the research, lament and inform.
- Learn from our Global Majority Heritage siblings, and be enriched by their theology and application of the Bible.
- Nationally, help those church communities that still suffer from the terrible legacy of enslavement.

Safeguarding

Having been on General Synod for the past five years, this has been one of the most difficult and distressing subjects that we have debated. What is important now is that the Church;

- Listens to victims and survivors
- Removes those who are resisting the necessary reforms
- Ensures that the safeguarding officer in each diocese is given the power to act independently where appropriate

This will be an important and necessary part of the next five years.

Comments from nominators;

Judith Harrison;

"I am very happy to nominate Christine Burgess as a candidate for election to General Synod, where she will continue to provide a valuable contribution, as I know her Christian faith will guide her in her strong desire to grow the Church, particularly by promoting inclusivity and encouraging our mission to young people."

Peter Clarke;

"I am delighted to second Christine Burgess's nomination as a candidate in this election. She has demonstrated a deep commitment to growing an inclusive and engaged Church and for caring for God's creation. In her first term, as well as prayerfully fulfilling her role at the General Synod, she kept members of the Kendal Deanery Synod informed through her thoughtful and sensitive reflections after each session."

Please give me your first-choice vote.