

Helen Ainsworth for General Synod

Where do I stand on key relevant issues for the new Synod?

I support the position of Inclusive Church and I hope and pray the Church of England will become a church where everyone is welcome, and is able to fully participate in the membership and leadership of the church

I am a committed advocate for change in the context of the Climate Emergency and will work towards a Church of England which is forward-looking and instrumental in making a difference

I am a passionate believer in the parish system and believe it needs support to ensure the sustainability of the Church. I believe in strategies which can deliver growth and support our ordained clergy

I do not underestimate the impact the pandemic has had on individuals and the Church of England. There will be difficult times ahead. We need to be forward-looking, bring God's light into our parishes and take decisions to ensure the parish system can continue for future generations

I recognise the importance of the Living in Love and Faith initiative. I will support it on the ground and be a critical and challenging friend in Synod

What can I bring to General Synod in terms of my skills and knowledge?

I have worked in a finance for 25 years (for the Bank of England) and will be able to make a valuable contribution to Synod's budget setting and financial responsibilities

I have significant experience of working in financial regulation including regarding the matters of the Climate Emergency and its impact on finance

I understand governance in the public and private sector and its importance in the effective running of our Church

I have been a maintained school governor and understand the importance of the role of the Church in education. But also the difficulties and challenges involved at a strategic level and at a level of detail

I understand safeguarding, its importance and its impact

I understand management and employment law

Proposed by
April Alexander, Lay Chair
of Tandridge Deanery

Seconded by
Alison Huneke,
Lay Chair of Sutton Deanery



What would you like to know about me?

I worship at St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

I have worked at the Bank of England for 25 years

I am married with two teenage daughters

I have experience of a range of roles and committees in a church and secular context

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What can I bring to General Synod in terms of my experience?

- I am a member of the Croydon Minority Ethnic Concern Committee and have recent experience of developing and implementing strategies to tackle racial inequality
- I have actively worshipped in an Anglican church since childhood
- I have worshipped in a variety of churches and understand many different perspectives
- I have spent many years on PCC and am used to sitting on committees in a faith context and changing the course of debates
- I understand the delicate balance required to retain individuals with different views within the church community and believe in unity
- I have worked with children and young people (both in Sunday and residential settings) and understand the importance of engaging those who represent the future of our faith in a real way

What will make me effective in Synod?

- I care deeply about the Church's role in making a difference in the lives of everybody. Especially the poor and vulnerable.
- I have significant experience of scrutinising and improving policy
- I have a very strong attention to detail
- I have experience of dealing with complex and nuanced governance and decision-making processes.
- I have significant experience of conflict resolution
- I am used to working collaboratively and effectively alongside people from all backgrounds from both professional and church life
- I want the church to grow and develop
- I am straight talking
- I am not afraid to speak up
- I am pragmatic and recognise the value of unity

Use your vote · Make me your **first choice** if you like what I say · **The first round counts most** · Only vote for people you want