

Carol Bates

Standing for the House of Clergy of General Synod

Nominated by Andrew Moughtin- Mumby (General Synod 2018-2021, Southwark and Newington Deanery)

Seconded by Giles Goddard (General Synod 2007- 2021, Lambeth North Deanery)



Experience

I am 52, married for 21 years and have three children. I grew up in the Borough of Lewisham and have been actively involved in ministry in the Church of England from my early teens, worshipping and serving across a number of parishes and churches including evangelical, anglo-catholic and liberal catholic traditions. I have served on PCCs and various committees which have included the setting up of a community project from scratch and co-ordinating creche and children's work. I've also sung in choirs, set up music groups and bands for worship as well as taught in Sunday schools and led Bible studies and prayer groups. I was licensed as a Reader in 2014 and ordained in 2019.

Within the diocese, I am an active member of Woolwich Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (WMEACC). At a national level, I am the Communications Secretary of the Anglican Minority Ethnic Network (AMEN), a network of over 700 people.

Outside of church, my interests include keeping fit, gardening and learning languages (currently Tagalog).

Professionally, I am a qualified Secondary Science Teacher but have taught across the age ranges (3-19yrs) in my 24 years of Teaching. The last ten years was spent in Special Education teaching students with autism and those with profound and multiple learning difficulties. I loved this rewarding work as it allowed me to be very creative in planning multi-sensory lessons and there was never a boring moment. I left this work to follow the call to ordination, training at St Augustines College of Theology and graduating with an MA in Theology, Ministry & Mission.

Why I am standing :

I am standing for General Synod as I love the Church in all its diversity. I believe we are at a critical time where decisions made now will determine whether the Church will flourish, bring healing and an understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ to this and future generations, or will be seen as an irrelevant institution.

I have followed General Synod debates over the years in the national press and Church Times. The Church needs a variety of people at all levels and Synod is sadly lacking in UKME people. I would like to make a difference by serving as one of your elected representatives. I have energy, commitment and passion and a

number of skillsets to bring to this role from over 30 years experience of Church of England ministry and 24 years experience working as a Teacher. I am currently in my final year of curacy. Should I be voted on to Synod, I commit to remaining in the diocese for at least 5 years.

I outline where I stand on the following priorities:

Inclusion

I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. I will draw on my own experience as a minority to help the Church realise the call to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Racial Justice

I will endeavour to hold the Church accountable in bringing about the recommendations outlined in the Lament to Action Report to effect real change for UKME groups, ensuring good practice across dioceses.

Mission

I believe mission - the sharing of God's love in the world - should be at the centre of all we are and do. Churches should be living and growing communities of faith. For this to happen, they need to reach out and connect with those outside the building. I will challenge the Church to be more outward looking and welcoming to all.

Climate Change

The world is in a state of emergency. The commitment by General Synod for our churches to become carbon net zero by 2030 must be supported. As stewards of God's creation we have duty of care for the created world. I will voice suggestions for churches to pave the way to a more eco-friendly future through environmentally and economically sustainable plans and initiatives eg/ Using Ecosia as a default search engine instead of Google.

Clergy Well-being

The current Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) causes great anxiety to clergy, in some cases resulting in severe health issues and even suicide. I will support legislation for early effective mediation when disputes arise and critically appraise new proposed legislation.

Thank you for reading my electoral statement. General Synod voting is by single transferable vote. I hope you will give me your 1st preference vote.

If you want to discuss any issues I have raised please feel free to contact me:

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