

General Synod Elections 2021, House of Laity



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Age: 39

Parish: Holy Trinity, Clapham
Deanery: Lambeth North

Dear Elector

I am writing to ask for your first preference vote in the upcoming elections. It would be a huge privilege to serve you within the House of Laity of General Synod. I love the Church of England. The heritage of an established network of 12,500 parishes offers the potential to reach out to communities across the country. I love the contrast of the continuity of hundreds of years of worship in ancient buildings and the significant changes that God can do in people's lives today. In my parish, we look back to the legacy of William Wilberforce and the impact that he had and I know that in the same way, the church can transform society today.

I am a mother of three young children and also an investment manager specializing in emerging economies and climate change, so I have wide experience and I believe I have developed skills, expertise and powers of negotiation to represent the whole Diocese. If elected, I commit to devoting my time and effort to fulfil my obligations wholeheartedly, to prayerfully seek God's guidance on the issues considered and to report back diligently to my Deaneries. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns which you would like me to elaborate further.

Yours in Christ

Emily Fletcher

Who am I?

Clapham is definitely home; I've lived here since I was five. I am married to Jon and we have three children Thea (9), Josiah (7) and Nathaniel (5). We are members of Holy Trinity, Clapham where I have been involved in children's work, pre-marriage courses, home group leadership, stewarding and part of the choir. It has been wonderful to see the church grow in size and impact on the local community over the last few years, including opening a foodbank and a church plant into St Peter's, Vauxhall.

I love the diversity of worship style across the Church of England. Whilst a student, I was a member of Queens' College Chapel Choir, and have ever since been convinced that Parry's "Songs of Farewell" will be sung in heaven!

What can I bring to General Synod?

Climate Change - Earlier this year, I launched a Emerging Market Sustainable Fund, looking to address many investors desire to invest in a socially responsible way. We aim to drive positive change on environmental issues, particularly reducing carbon emissions through engagement with companies. By 2025, Emerging Markets will represent 85% of the world's population and 75% of carbon emissions; and include countries which will be most impacted by and least able to afford the consequences of climate change. I believe that Synod offers a platform for the church to lead and set an example to the nation on issues of climate change.

Managing Finances – Post COVID, I believe this is one of the key issues facing the church today. The Church Commissioners face very difficult decisions in balancing the church's need for additional funding today and their responsibilities to future obligations. As a CFA Charterholder, with a long career in fund management, I am well placed to contribute to this debate.

Ethical Investment - For the last 15 years, I have worked for BlackRock as an emerging and frontier markets fund manager. I have invested my clients' money in the stock markets of less developed nations, such as India, Nigeria and Vietnam, highlighting to me the concerns of many of the world's poorest people. I have met with Government, Central Bank and development agency staff across more than 20 countries. In addition, I have gained insight into the challenges facing many Christians across the Anglican Communion. I believe that an ethical investment policy should consider where a fund "should" as well as shouldn't invest.

Digitally enabled Church – COVID has brought more change to working patterns than we ever could have imagined. That my team can communicate well despite being based across 7 countries has become normal! Online services have seen our church connect with new people nationally and internationally over the past year. Reduced commuting has given me the time and flexibility to volunteer in increased and different ways. I believe technology presents really exciting opportunities to reach younger, diverse communities.

Celebrating diversity - Finally, I believe that as a full-time working mother, I offer a different perspective to some of the other voices represented within General Synod. Having a neurodiverse child has taught me to value and love someone who thinks differently to me.

My Christian Perspective

Knowing God gives my life meaning and purpose. I believe that my faith should permeate all areas of my life, so my behaviour becomes a distinctive witness to those around me. Whilst I would consider myself evangelical in approach, no-one has the monopoly of wisdom. If elected, I would seek to discern God's will prayerfully through the many different views presented at General Synod.

I want the church to echo William Temple and display that it is "the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members" and I believe that there is much more that we could be doing to further the rights of the marginalised and unheard. Above all, I believe that we have been called to: "go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".
(Matthew 28:19)