

General Synod Election Address 2021

Denise Gilmour



The Vicarage, Churchmore Road, London SW16 5UZ

Mob: 07981 597818

Email: dskgilmour@gmail.com

Ministry and Family

I am the acting youth and children's worker at Holy Redeemer Church, Streatham Vale since September 2020. I am also the Vicar's wife and have been a member of this church family for 17 years where my husband, Ian, has served for 31 years. We have 3 children aged between 12-16. My responsibilities have primarily been with women, children and youth ministries. It is a passion of mine to reach out to our community and invite them to hear the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ, and if elected I will work to ensure that this continues to be a key priority for the Church of England as well as the development and training of good leaders who will teach and train the next generation.

Having been born in Malaysia, of Chinese descent, and now serving in a highly diverse congregation in the UK, I am conscious of the need to have a cohort of leaders who reflect the diversity of the population in the diocese. I know first-hand the difficulties of being in an ethnic minority so I will endeavour to make their needs and concerns heard. In my time as a Social Worker I clearly saw the benefits of having a supportive family, stable marriages and strong community. Safeguarding was of critical importance in my role.

In my time as school governor I had increasing concerns that the truth and ethics of the Bible seemed to be compromised. During this time I grew in awareness of the societal pressures on our young people particularly on their mental health, exposure to over sexualised material and the heavy influence of social media. I was involved in drafting safeguarding and sex education policies. If elected I will want to ensure that Church of England schools are confident in teaching the good news about Jesus, and the benefits of Christian ethics.

Work and Voluntary Experience:

- Recently elected to Deanery Synod and PCC member at Holy Redeemer Church, Streatham.
- School governor with local Church of England primary school (2016-2019).
- Sunday School teacher, youth group leader, toddler group and women's bible study leader (2005-current).
- Christian Union volunteer leader in a Church of England secondary girls school (2018-2020).

Background:

- Bachelor of Social Work at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia (1988-1991).
- Social Worker at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre, Ryde and later at Canterbury Hospital, Sydney, Australia (1992-1997).
- University student ministry part-time (1994-1998), Bachelor of Theology (1999-2001), Master of Arts (Theology) with the Australian College of Theology (part-time 2002-2006).
- Piano teacher in the UK (2006-2010), Diploma in Piano Performance (Trinity and ABRSM in 2017).

Hobbies:

- Piano accompanist to various music artists.
- Figure skating at Streatham Ice Rink.
- Learning the cello and Mandarin.

I am keen to represent all the laity, committed to listening positively while respecting opposing views. My aim will be to be available to my electors and provide feedback as appropriate. In the first instance, I hope you will consider giving me your first preference vote, or failing that, the highest you are able to give would be greatly appreciated. Please do contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Denise