

Emily Layzell

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Age: 45

Candidate for House of Laity

Proposer: Katie Jones

Secunder: Olivia Brambill



OPENING STATEMENT

- I believe that the Church of England, with its parish structure - a presence in every community - has the potential to reach this nation with the good news of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit and to transform our society.
- I am offering myself to serve on General Synod as I am passionate to see:
 - The Church of England grow and flourish as we communicate the gospel of Jesus to our communities.
 - The Church equipped and strengthened to serve and bring about social transformation, bringing the hope of Christ to meet the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs in the communities around us.
 - Unity across the whole church.

PERSONAL DETAILS

- I grew up in Kent. I didn't grow up going to church but I became a Christian when I was 15 years old after hearing the gospel during an assembly at my school. From that moment, I felt called to serve and encourage the church and to spend my life serving Jesus and telling others about Him.
- At 19 years old, I attended a 6 month discipleship course at Soul Survivor in Watford (SS), a church plant from St Andrew's, Chorleywood. After this, I went on to work there full time as an Assistant Pastor.
- It was in Watford that I met and married my husband, Martyn, of 22 years and we have 4 sons aged 19, 17, 15 and 12.
- During my time as SS I was involved in worship, pastoral care, discipleship, teaching and training both in the local church setting and the national and international ministries. I also volunteered for the Homeless charity 'Watford New Hope Trust.'
- After 9 years I moved to Oxford and served for 6 years at St Aldates church on the worship team, women's ministry, mums and toddler outreach ministry, and pioneered a new Sunday evening service aimed at students and young adults in the city which is still going strong.
- My family and I then moved to London and joined Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), (where my husband did his curacy and then became Associate Vicar.) I served as a volunteer leading and speaking at Sunday services, on Alpha and on various courses, co-led a ministry for mums with young children, womens ministry, small groups etc. When our youngest son was of school age I worked part time on the senior leadership team as Associate Pastor alongside my husband to oversee the HTB staff

teams, clergy, ordinands and develop structures and strategies to implement the vision on behalf of the Vicar.

- Following 10 years at HTB, and since November 2020 I am now in the position of Senior Pastor at St Mark's Battersea Rise, London.

WHY AM I STANDING?

- Baptised as a baby and then Confirmed as a teenager in the Church of England after my conversion, I have always been committed to the Church of England.
- I feel prompted to stand in this election for the House of Laity on General Synod because I feel that there are some significant issues facing the Church of England and the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgency and the current opportunity the church has in these pivotal days.

WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE KEY ISSUES?

- *Vision and strategy for a 'Christ centred, Jesus shaped, mixed ecology of church'*. Exploring, encouraging and resourcing innovative expressions of church alongside and to compliment more traditional parish ministry.
- *Finance*. How we maximise finances and increase efficiency in the organisational structures and systems in order to resource mission and ministry at the parish level.
- *Living in Love & Faith*. The Church's teaching on gender, identity and human sexuality.
- *Climate change*. The role of the Church leading the way on environmental issues.

WHAT CAN I OFFER?

- Over 25 years experience of frontline church ministry in both a voluntary and staff capacity within the Church of England which has afforded me the opportunity to work alongside a large number of people from different ethnicities, ages and socioeconomic backgrounds; laity and clergy.
- Over the past two decades, working for, serving at, leading teams, leading worship and speaking at New Wine conferences has given me a passion for unity across the breadth of the church.
- First hand practical and strategic experience of church growth and church planting.
- Experience in engaging a younger generation that is currently under-represented in church.
- Passionate about equipping and encouraging the older generations (every generation) to play their part in the Great Commission.
- A commitment to represent laity and an orthodox view of biblical principles.
- A commitment to prayer and seeking wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit.
- A commitment to be available and provide feedback if elected.

FINALLY

It is a privilege to have this opportunity to write to you. I would love you to consider giving me a high preference vote. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your prayers.