

Address for General Synod Elections



Who am I?

Lesley Karen Nicholson. I am a married mother of three adult children who teaches in a primary school. As well as teaching Year 3 I have the role of Outreach Co-ordinator which I thoroughly enjoy as it enables our school to be aware of the needs of others within our local community and those in other countries less fortunate.

I am a committed Christian who was fortunate to grow up within a loving Christian family. My faith deepened once I became a mother, and I realised the importance in giving and teaching my children the foundations of Christianity.

Outside interests: reading, running, yoga, walking (especially with my West Highland Terrier), meeting with friends.

What have I done within the church?



- Sunday School leader
- Street Pastor
- Worked with Christians Against Poverty
- PCC
- Deanery Synod

Why have I put myself forward?

I feel that the Church is at a crucial stage and decisions made within the next few years are going to be important. I will stand up and speak out for you about these important issues that I mention below. I have a life experience and my faith is central to the choices and decisions I make.

What I think are the two main issues facing the church in the next 5 years?



Inclusivity: 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Galatians 3:28

We are living in a world of unrest both politically and socially. People are continually being marginalised and discriminated upon. In addition, the past 18 months has seen people of all ages suffering from loneliness and mental health issues.

I feel there is an opportunity for the Church to reach out to those who are finding it hard to define themselves in society, those who are learning about their sexuality, those who are suffering from anxiety or depression. The Church should offer a place where everyone feels comfortable to be accepted for who they are so that they can make peace with themselves.

Climate Change "Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation." Archbishop Justin Welby



Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change in developing countries but if they are given opportunities to be involved, they become powerful ambassadors. I feel the church needs to increase the provision of opportunities for women to be taught to adjust to current effects of climate change and the predicted impacts in the future.