

Susan Patterson election address

I am a licensed lay reader at St Stephen's South Dulwich.

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.

My concerns in the Church of England are equal marriage, racial equality and facing up to our historical safeguarding issues. I am committed to the parish system

I am a member of St Stephen's Dulwich PCC, Dulwich Deanery, Diocese of Southwark Synod, and Southwark Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Measure Committee.

I have been an Anglican all my life. In 2018 I trained at St Augustine's to be a lay minister. I was licenced at Southwark Cathedral in October 2020. My main interest is prayer and how we pray, and I enjoy preaching. I have continued at St Augustine's as a post-graduate student, where I have concentrated on bible studies and Christian spirituality.

I was born in south east London, where I spent my early life, before my family moved to Hampshire and then Berkshire.

After graduating with a degree in history, I moved back to south London to train as a nurse at St George's Hospital, Tooting. I finished my nursing career as a research sister in respiratory medicine at St Bartholomew's when I went on maternity leave. I then worked as an investigator for the Parliamentary Ombudsman and while I was there I studied for an MA in scriptwriting at Goldsmiths College. I subsequently worked as a press officer for Highways England, NHS England and John Lewis. I now work in healthcare communications for a charity hospital, where I specialise in digital communications.

I have a daughter who works for a theatre company for women who are in prison or who have been in contact with the criminal justice system. In my spare time I go trail running and to the gym, I sew and crochet, and enjoy going to the cinema. For the past 12 years I have volunteered as a cook at a meal for homeless people run by a St James the Less in Pimlico, and for the Robes Project. I love dogs.