

Rosemary Wilson



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Church: St Nicholas Church, Tooting
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Background

I was born in London and brought up in a Jamaican household with the assumption that Jesus was Lord underpinning our family values. Confirmed in the United Reformed Church at 16, I was however swept away with the cares of the world not long after that. My journey into early adulthood included leaving Jesus behind as I explored my identity as a second-generation African Caribbean woman, eventually finding Buddhism. However, by my early 30s, depression and despair led me back to the God of my childhood, and I gave my life to the Lord Jesus in May 2004. I moved to my current church, St Nicholas Tooting, in February 2008.

Why me?

Working with people was on my heart from an early age. I volunteered at a local school for the visually impaired aged 14 and spent a total of 12 years working with a variety of marginalised groups in our society:

- Resettlement worker in a hostel for ex-offenders with alcohol, drug and mental health issues (St Martin of Tours Housing Association, London)
- Qualified as a Social Worker in 1991
- Development worker for Manchester Housing Consortium supporting people with mental health issues to live and flourish within the community
- Appointed African Caribbean Development and Outreach worker for MIND in a Tower Hamlets mental health centre, establishing community-focused provision and care for black users vulnerable to revolving psychiatric admissions
- Senior Play & Development worker on an integrated adventure playground for children with disabilities and special needs with KIDS Active London
- Statutory Social Worker for older persons – Merton & Sutton Local Authorities

I also developed a passion for writing, culminating in a MA in Screenwriting and worked as Freelance Personal Assistant and Researcher in a Script Training and Development Consultancy in London for two years. However, a full-time writing career was curtailed when I was diagnosed with sarcoidosis, a chronic long term health condition, leading to a total of five years at home, unwell. I eventually returned to work as a Senior Administrator and Liaison officer for WYEC a local charity

working with young people. After almost three years, however, my parents' health needs were brought sharply into focus for us as a family, as Dad was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. I became my parent's full-time carer in 2010. Dad died 2016, but I remain Mom's carer to this day.

Church life

I've been part of St Nicholas Church Tooting church family since February 2008 and have served in church life in a number of ways – as a creche worker; greeter; organising monthly church lunch for five years; becoming a Voluntary Pastoral Assistant in 2011 to present; overseeing Women's Work (2011–16); ongoing Bible study leader; ongoing leader of prayer group; leading The Tabitha Project, a community outreach project for and by vulnerable women (2015–18); PCC member (2011 to present); Tooting Deanery member (2014 to present).

As we emerge from Lockdown and restrictions, we are working on rebuilding relationships as a church family within a wider parish and community in need of hearing God's word, and seeing His people engaged in good works.

Interest in General Synod

My access to the Lord Jesus stems from local, parish churches, where I was encouraged to establish a relationship with Him through reading the Bible and prayer. Faith came and grew from hearing the Word. In our post-Christian, multi-faith, secular nation, the importance of the local church as a means for ordinary people to come into contact with the Lord Jesus and His message of salvation through faith in Him, is for me of utmost importance.

Serving on Deanery Synod has enabled me to see and be part of unity in Spirit in action, while growing in Christian graces and fruit, such as patience, gentleness and speaking truth in love.

My background and working life have been one of being on the margins of mainstream society. But God so loved the world, He gave His own Son – not for some but for all. I am keen to be part of a Church of England that gives access to all peoples, from all tribes, tongues and nations. My experiences (personal and professional), together with my desire that the Lord be glorified through and by His people, underpins my seeking the privilege of election as one of the lay representatives for Southwark on General Synod. I would commit myself to working for everyone in the Diocese at General Synod, with the particular objective of ensuring that, through legislation and debate, the focus is Jesus Christ and His concern for those on the margins of our communities. In this regard, I am encouraged by aspects of the 'Vision and Strategy' work currently being led by the Archbishop of York.

Please contact me if you would like to know more about me and talk further about my application. And thank you for considering my candidacy and for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.