

## VIVIENNE GODDARD

Dear Friends

I write to ask you to give me your **first** vote preference in the forthcoming elections to General Synod. It has been a privilege to serve on General Synod and I hope you will vote for me to allow me to continue.

### Laity

My first priority has always been the role of the laity within the Church of England. I have been fortunate to once again be elected by the General Synod as the **sole** lay member of Ministry Council, so in the past quinquennial have been able to assist with the adoption of two major reports on the life of the laity: *Setting God's people free* and *Kingdom Calling*.

Additionally and arguable more importantly, there has been a perceived sea change in the attitude of some of the bishops, regarding a reordering of the proportion of money spent between lay and clergy for training purposes. I would hope to continue to support this move and encourage further developments regarding the role of Readers, now LLMs and other lay ministries. For all laity to play a greater part in their discipleship and the mission of the Church needs this support, including financial.

### Parishes

One of the most urgent items for the next Synod to address will be the role and importance of the parishes. I am much concerned, which is shared with many others, that matters are becoming too centralised and too much like a business. I believe parishes are the life blood of our Church and need to be both supported, resourced and maintained. A new campaign *Save the Parishes* is under way and I would support that. It is vital that we remain the Church of **England**, not just the wealthier, sub-urban parts.

### Deaneries

It is a sadness that we have been unable to meet as deaneries and for those of us currently serving to be able to make reports to the deaneries, due to the pandemic. Hopefully this will change and if re-elected I look forward to once again being able to visit deaneries in the diocese. I hope that more weight will be given to the local decisions of deanery parishes and PCCs.

### Living in Love and Faith

Synod members will be aware that this is the way the Church is trying to deal with the challenging questions around sexuality. It is a long slow process, but hopefully some progress is being made. I am committed to the fact that Christian marriage should be the lifelong union of man and woman, whilst open to civil partnerships for those who choose: this particularly applies to same gender couples.

### Personal

My family are a great part of my life, my husband, John and I celebrated our Golden Wedding during the pandemic! I love to spend time with my two sons and their wives and two young grandchildren - a great blessing my mixed race family!

This summer, we took a break from local life and set off on our narrowboat, travelling down the west side of the country by canal onto the Thames at Oxford, through London and back up the Eastern side of the country via the Grand Union Canal. We travelled from the end of April until the end of August, visiting many different churches and sometimes having to walk several miles to get there. Being camera shy, I thought you might appreciate an action photo from this trip!



Vivienne

Please feel free to contact me for any queries , **07779786141** or **viviennegoddard@gmail.com**