

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION 2021

ROSEMARY J. LYON – CANDIDATE

PROPOSED BY: Mr. John Balaam, Leyland Deanery Synod

SECONDED BY: Mrs. Margaret Stewart, Chorley Deanery Synod

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Dear Elector,

I have built up significant experience, knowledge and understanding over two terms on General Synod, as a lay representative for our diocese. Having recently given up my 'day job' I am keen to serve for another five years, believing that I am young enough to be open to the necessity of change during the next quinquennium but also, importantly, able to contribute to the 'corporate memory' of Synod.

I have been active as a member of Synod in various capacities.

Apart from contributing to debates and asking questions, I have served as the Synod Observer on the Mothers' Union Worldwide Council. I sponsored a Mothers Union fringe event in July 2019, hosting Mrs Sheran Harper, the M.U. Worldwide President. This occasion provided a showcase for successful projects in ordinary parishes. For the last six and a half years I have served as one of the two elected members from General Synod on the National Society Council. Amongst other roles in education this body negotiates with Government and other national agencies to maintain and develop the contribution of church schools and universities to public education in England and Wales.

So Who Am I?

- Born 1962, married with two grown up sons, worship at St.Mary's, Rufford with Holmeswood. Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- Former USPG voluntary assistant in the Anglican Diocese of Argentina, working in various capacities, including helping at the diocese's children's nursery and leading a home group.
- Supporter of Scripture Union, serving on 'Great Dayz' (sic) youth camp (2017), Hexham Holiday Club (2018) and 'Edale Adventure' (2019).
- Recently took early retirement after a career in education, including teaching in primary and secondary Schools and in teacher training college, as well as school governorship. I now volunteer as a school Chaplaincy assistant.
- Member of PCC, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod, Mothers' Union, Prayer Book Society; Friend of Whalley Abbey; formerly a member of the diocesan World Development Group; foodbank helper.

Learning from our own diocese

One of the opportunities of being on General Synod is the chance to share what has been successful in our own diocese. For example, the recent debate on the Implementation and Dialogue Group's report on the working (or not) of the Women Bishops legislation and the related Five Guiding Principles, showed that Blackburn Diocese has been a model for successful co-operation and true mutual flourishing. Another success is our Diocesan Vision 2026, currently being relaunched and reflecting a new emphasis on not just including but inspiring children and young people. If re-elected I will continue to share our successes and good practice with those from other dioceses with different experiences.

Children, Families and Education

A lifetime spent working with children and young people has given me knowledge and expertise, not just an interest in this area. I would seek to ensure that the importance of the education of the next generation should not be lost among other topics in the new Synod. A recent report showed that 41% of practising Christians attribute their faith to growing up in a Christian household. We need to attract and engage with children through engaging with families and schools at parish, diocesan and national levels. Our ministry with schools must be a key priority as we strive to share our faith with children and families and encourage parents to have confidence and ability in passing on the faith.

Parishes and Dioceses

Whilst we should be open to helpful initiatives, including where appropriate church planting, I believe that the local church remains the key focus for sacraments, fellowship and sharing the Good News of Jesus. We should rejoice that more ordinands are coming through and cherish our parish clergy. The powers that be need to be more fully aware of the ever greater burdens being laid on parishes, for example through safeguarding and GDPR. I am pleased that under the umbrella of Vision and Strategy, led by the Archbishop of York, it is acknowledged that Bishops' and Deans' costs need reducing. I am in favour of a better balance in the distribution of historic resources between dioceses, and proper protection for parishioners threatened by centralised reorganisation.

Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM)

Reforming the failed CDM legislation should be an urgent priority for the new Synod. It is essential that lessons are learned from previous mistakes and that a swifter, fairer system is put in place as soon as possible.

Living in Love and Faith (LLF)

I fully support the LLF process. This constitutes a major investment of time, money and resources by the church and deserves to be engaged with as widely as possible. Whilst I wish to uphold the Church of England's clear understanding of holy matrimony as being a union of one man and one woman, and wish to maintain and promote unity, I will consider carefully and in a spirit of generosity whatever proposals might emerge from the LLF process to make the Church of England more welcoming to all.

And Finally

You are most welcome to contact me to discuss these or any other relevant issues.

I ask for your **first preference vote**.



Rosemary J. Lyon