

Candidate for General Synod House of Clergy

The Reverend Canon Sue Booy

Team Rector, Dorchester Team Ministry
Chair, House of Clergy

*Proposed by The Venerable Judy French,
Archdeacon of Dorchester*

*Seconded by The Reverend David Haylett,
Associate Minister, Dorchester Team Ministry*



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Please vote for me so that I can bring my experience of parish ministry, the life of the Diocese and my commitment to listen and lead in General Synod as I continue to serve the Diocese and the National Church.

You won't find my name on any pressure group list but I have always promised to listen to all sides of the arguments presented in Synod and I have been present and voting consistently during my 14 years' service. I believe I still have work to do for the national church and for this Diocese. I have valued your trust and I ask you to trust me once again.

By way of introduction.....

I have worshipped in this Diocese for 37 years, as a Laywoman, Lay Reader and as a priest trained on the Oxford Ministry Course. As a member of Synod I have a good attendance record, have supported other members as well as visiting Deaneries and Diocesan groups to report and to listen. As Team Rector of the Dorchester Team Ministry I lead a Ministry team of lay and ordained people and welcome people from across the Diocese and beyond to Dorchester Abbey. In each of my roles I am committed to the flourishing of all people within our Church as members and ministers.

Nationally, I have served on the General Synod Business Committee for 10 years and was elected Chair by the whole Synod two years ago. During this time as well as directing the Business of Synod I have worked with other members of Synod, the Archbishops' and Synod staff on a range of initiatives to "change the culture of Synod".

General Synod 2015-2020

I believe the work of this Quinquennium has the potential to mark a turning point in the Church of England. The major piece of work will be the continuation of the four strands of the **Reform and Renewal** programme with its intention to make our church fit for mission by dealing with practical and foundational issues. Reform and Renewal is a work in progress and those of us who are elected will have the opportunity to help refine the work that comes before us.

Developing Discipleship speaks directly to a concern that many people want to be excited by, and more knowledgeable about, what it means to live their daily lives as Christian people. As parish priests we know about this desire and have experience of bringing it to birth. Acknowledging that this is central to change and renewal is a good place to start.

Resourcing Ministerial Education with its partner programme (overseen by the House of Bishops) **Developing Senior Leadership** has been the most controversial strand of Reform and Renewal. The intentions are good – more clergy with excellent training, but this is the strand that has the most need for further work both in the management of the training and in the inclusion and development of good training for the Lay people whose ministry alongside the clergy is crucial. In my national role I can help make sure that space is made for this.

Resourcing the Future. Such change can be costly and the Church Commissioners who care for the historic resources of the Church of England have taken the view that hanging on to all our financial investments in a context where the Church needs to invest in training and development is short sighted. Whilst there have been accusations of "selling the family silver" the principle, on which Synod was consulted and which I support, was that making significant investment for the future with some of their resources was a better strategy than holding on to all their investments until there was no-one left to benefit from them!

The **Simplification** agenda aims to cut out some of the red tape we so often complain about and some of the work that has already been done is beginning to take effect - I'm delighted that synod has begun to grasp this nettle and particularly look forward to continuing work that will make life easier for smaller rural parishes to meet their obligations honestly and openly.

Not one of the aspirations that make up the Reform and Renewal programme is 'new' but all of them resonate with conversations and hopes that I have with clergy and people in the parishes. The challenge is to make the national expression of those aspirations a practical reality. It is this process of refining and fine tuning that I would like to be a part of.

Human Sexuality is the other major topic of concern in the Synod this coming Quinquennium and those elected to Synod will be at the heart of these discussions with two days of the July 2016 Synod engaging in a form of shared conversations. The manner of these conversations is almost as important as the outcome – maybe more so. Valuing each individual and trusting and respecting their relationship with God means for me that even when I struggle to understand I am challenged to respect others. I can't tell you how I will vote on this issue, not least because I don't know what I shall be voting on – that's part of the point of the shared conversations. I can tell you that I shall be prioritising a Church that is not exclusive and that I shall be praying and acting to ensure as far as I can that falling out over this issue is not allowed to cripple our Church and our Mission.

Keep in touch....

I'll be glad to talk with anyone at any time. I shall participate in the online hustings but please do phone or email me or message me on social media if you want to delve further!
Please pray for me and for all the candidates for election as you consider your vote.

Sue Booyes September 2015