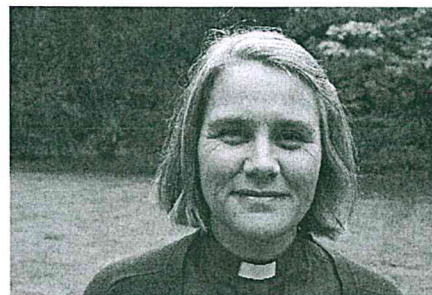


Rev'd Kate Stacey

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My name is Kate Stacey and I am married to Graham, who is a self-supporting minister. We have three children, Anna, Bethia and Daniel, who are all at secondary school.

I have been ordained for 7 years and lived in Oxford Diocese for 18, across each Archdeaconry. I have worshipped in various churches; from a large cell church in Buckinghamshire, through training at Cuddesdon, to worshipping and serving in rural churches in Berkshire and now Oxfordshire.

I am passionate about the rural church, and the richness and depth it offers to the communities around them and the wider church. However, I am also aware that the rural voice is often under-represented in wider church discussions and decisions.

I believe I can bring that voice to General Synod, as I have at Diocesan Synod, the Diocesan Board of Mission and through my involvement with the Diocesan Rural Strategy group.

I am excited about the impact the current simplification agenda might have on the life and work of all churches, and especially those in multi parish benefices.

I am keen to be part of those discussions and the hope that they offer.

This kind of thinking and work is essential if we are to have rural churches that are more than communities managing their own decline.

There are two themes that I think the church will focus on over the next 5 years: Radical Hospitality and Lay Ministry.

The church has historically struggled to show the radical hospitality of Christ, where each member is honoured and valued as a beloved child of God.

I have been involved in the work of WATCH, serving as Secretary on the national committee for three years. We have come a long way in our recognition of what women bring to the church, though there is still a way to go.

Now we must search the heart of God as we seek to honour and show radical hospitality across the spectrum of human sexuality.

I would love for these conversations to lead to a better understanding of *all* who are marginalised by the church so that we can reconnect in a positive, inclusive way that people can respond to, where we can be relevant to the communities we serve and proclaim the gospel afresh in this generation.

I also believe the church needs to grapple with how we honour and invest in lay ministry; in the ministry that happens in our church buildings, in our communities, in our schools, with both young and older people. We need to look at how we invest in those who are ministering in political spheres, engaging with social justice, environmental issues and the ethical issues raised by new technology and warfare.

We have acknowledged our increasing dependence on lay people and all that they bring to the ministry of the church, but I believe that we need to think through what this means in terms of our structures, the ways in which we invest in training and how we use our finances.

This is such an important issue because lay ministry is the lifeblood of the mission of the church. Our thinking is moving away from the clergy as the agent of mission to the whole body of Christ as the agents of mission, now we need to do the hard work of ensuring our structures and finances follow.

These are some of the reasons I would love to serve this Diocese on General Synod.