



Kathryn Mary Winrow, MA, B.Ed(Hons)

Proposer: Mrs Judith Babb, Bishop's Council, Amersham Deanery

Seconder: Mr John Hughesdon, Lay Chair, Newbury Deanery Synod

Dear Elector

In my request for your vote, I would like to give you some information about myself and my motivation for standing.

Executive Summary

- Encouraged to stand by members of clergy and laity
- 22 years as Headteacher of CofE secondary school with three 'Outstanding' OFSTED and SIAMS Inspections (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). Previous Schools Inspector/Adviser and National Leader in Education
- Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust, currently supporting 2,500 primary school pupils. Member of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education
- Wide experience of education in state community and church schools across the full range (Nursery to Post 16)
- Will bring a strong professional contribution to Synod, particularly on Church schools, religious education and collective worship. Also church youth ministry (40 years direct involvement) and inter-faith issues
- Regular communicant member of St. George the Martyr, Newbury, where my husband is Associate Priest. Actively involved in leadership, nurture, discipleship and mission

About myself.

Born in South Yorkshire, I became a communicant member of the Church of England at the age of 11. Having initiated and run a Sunday school from the age of 14, I knew my vocation from an early age and have taught in Secondary Schools for over forty years. I studied Theology for my first degree and completed my Master's degree before becoming Deputy Head in Hounslow at the age of 32. I worked in Hounslow for 18 years in multi-faith community schools following which I was an Education Inspector / Adviser in Hampshire with responsibility for Management Development. I became Headteacher at Ranelagh in 1992.

Ranelagh is an 11-18 Church of England school serving the Deaneries of Bracknell and Sonning. During my Headship the school received three 'Outstanding' OFSTED reports, mirrored by three 'Outstanding' SIAMS Inspections. I retired from the Headship of Ranelagh School, Bracknell, last year after 22 years at the helm.

I believe strongly in Servant Leadership and have articulated my own values and beliefs in daily encounters throughout my career. A SIAMS report in 2014 said of me, *'The head teacher clearly articulates a theology of education which places the student at the heart and which is underpinned by biblical principles. She models this effectively through her humanity, humility and humour....'*

As a National Leader in Education, I have had the opportunity to work with a number of schools in difficulty to support them on their journey to becoming 'Good' schools. At the request of the Diocese and DfE, I continue to work with an Academy as Executive Headteacher. This is a multi-faith all-through Academy from Nursery to Post 16 sponsored by the Diocese.

Driven by my passionate belief that the Church has an essential role in the education of young people I chair the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust. I maintain that church multi academy trusts should be focussed on improving the quality of an education for all rooted in Christian values.

ODST is one of the largest Diocesan trusts in the country. Staff, students, and governors are benefitting both from collaborative working and the educational expertise the Trust can offer. My role involves regular contact and negotiation with the DfE and reporting to the Diocesan Board of Education.

I am also active in the National Centre for Universities and Business, working towards strengthening relationships between Sixth Form and Higher Education.

Within my own parish, I serve on the PCC, am a member of the Church Vision Group, I have responsibility for leading Nurture and Discipleship Programme across all age groups and actively involved in leading aspects of worship. I am Safeguarding Officer and lead all work with children and young people at St. George's, including an Annual Holiday Club which attracts over 100 children and involves 50 adults.

Motivation for Standing

Education is going through another period of significant change with the publication of the Education and Adoption Bill, the revised National Curriculum, (which has a narrow focus on the academic core subjects excluding the Arts and RE), and a new OFSTED framework. More significantly, the Bill extends the reach of direct State intervention in Church schools. If schools are issued with an Academy Order by the Secretary of State, the relevant religious authorities must still be consulted, but the consents required under the Academies Act 2010 do not apply, thus the distinctive Christian character may not be safeguarded. A major issue for a Diocese with nearly 300 church schools.

I am aware that the National Society and a group of Church of England Diocesan Boards of Education have made representations seeking changes to the Bill to protect the religious character of their schools. This is an open issue which will face challenges in the near future, including uncertainties about ownership of capital assets. With the publication of the Act, there will still be key issues for the Church to address and I know I can bring experience and substance to this debate.

The recent report, 'A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools' (Clarke and Woodhead) has also received considerable press attention since its publication in June 2015 (ref. The Door July/Aug). The report's recommendations on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Church Schools in England require careful consideration by Synod before enshrined in legislation. Some of the recommendations are controversial and could have far reaching consequences for all schools and future generations.

My passion is to secure the very best educational opportunities for all children and young people, giving them a strong foundation on which to build, enabling them to make a positive contribution to society driven by a predominantly state educational narrative which can be too individualistic, academically focussed and economically based. Concerned for the whole person, the Church has a responsibility to ensure young people are creative, socially adept, spiritually, as well as morally, aware.

Our faith has a political, social and economic dimension. Societal issues generated by state policies and multi-national companies often have to be challenged in our role of providing a voice for the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised and to maintain the integrity of our ethical investments. We need to seek wisdom, discernment, compassion and shared understanding when dealing with issues such as sexuality and religious extremism. Equally we should look to our own structures, re-evaluating their long term sustainability and whether they strategically promote effective engagement with the modern world. This may involve reviewing and extending our approach and understanding of ministry, including the training of ordained and lay people.

Finally....

..... I know I can make a strong professional contribution to the education debate within Synod as well as giving a 'grassroots' Anglican perspective on other issues.

Diocesan members of laity and clergy who know I will represent them well, make a positive contribution, and report back appropriately, have strongly encouraged me to stand for General Synod. I am totally committed to the Church of England, have always taken an active role, and have respect for the wide range of traditions within Anglicanism.

I am willing to keep an open mind, listen to others and look to solve problems through dialogue. Diversity brings a richness which should be treasured, enabling individuals to work together for the benefit of communities and bring glory to God.

Thank you for considering this address.

If there is anything you would like to discuss with me please email kwinrow@btinternet.com