



Candidate for General Synod

Helen Eskriett

The church as the Bride of Christ is beautiful and precious, and I have been blessed by its many different expressions from the serene and viscerally touching worship of Durham Cathedral (where my beloved Uncle was a Canon Residentiary) to the contemplative style of the Northumbrian Community and the more modern style of my home church (St John's Bowling, Bradford), New Wine and Spring Harvest.

My journey, this far... I was brought up in a Christian home, educated at a Catholic school and have been a Christian since my teens. During my training as a Physiotherapist in Bradford I worshipped at the city's Cathedral. I have worked in the NHS and, in the early 1990s, in orphanages in Romania as a Paediatric Physiotherapist. One of my joys was joining the congregation of the Anglican Church in Bucharest once a month – I lived in the north of the country, so it took two and a half days to get to church and back! For a short while after my return to the UK, I lived in the 'mother house' (Nether Springs) as part of the Northumbria Community.

I am married to Ian and have 3 children: two young adults and one in her GCSE year. Over the years I have changed my work to fit around family life. I have worked in a clothing factory and as a Teaching Assistant in both secondary and a primary school, where I also served as a School Governor. For 13 years my husband and I have had a residential letting business and I now work coordinating the Food Pantry and community café my church runs supporting our local community. I developed and led the Childrens' ministry team at St John's for 16 years and am now building relationships with and supporting the many asylum seekers and refugees who are part of our church family. I am also part of our PCC and Deanery Synod.

With such a varied background I have insight into many of the issues currently affecting society which the church is called to speak into. From health and education to housing, inner city challenges, poverty and immigration, I bring life experience and the awareness of many perspectives.

Over the decades I have experienced the love and kindness of God; His grace and His mercy have touched me and changed me. My prayer is that others also encounter God's love and that the local church is a place where this is expressed and experienced. However, we all know that there are areas of the Church of England where the reality and the ideal don't match up and I'm pleased to see that General Synod is having significant discussions about some of these key areas including safeguarding, clergy discipline and the reorganization of national church institutions, in order to address them. I feel that the breadth of wisdom and understanding I have gained throughout my life gives me insight to inform my contribution to these debates, should I be elected.

We have been commissioned to make disciples from all people groups and to show the world that we are Christ's disciples by the love we have for each other. How the church organizes itself, stewards its resources, encourages everyone to fulfill their God given potential and reaches out to those not yet in the Kingdom are not only important in how we in the Anglican Church fulfil the Great Commission but are also things I'm passionate about. In searching for answers to these 'how?' questions rather than looking to my opinion, the world's or society's I believe that Scripture has the ultimate authority.

If you feel that I could represent you and that all that God has woven into my life this far could be used to serve Him on General Synod, then please give me your vote.