



Judith Osborne

Email: judithosborne2010@gmail.com

The Firs, 69 Skipton Road, Ilkley, LS29 9BH

Standing for The House of Laity of General Synod

Background

I am 55 years old, married with 4 children in their late teens and twenties. I am a qualified teacher and have taught in both the primary and secondary sectors, for the most part teaching French. Originally from Scotland, I studied at the C of E University College in Ripon, North Yorkshire, for 4 years and I have lived in Ilkley, West Yorkshire for the past 27 years. I have been an active member of All Saints' Parish Church, Ilkley since 1999. I love living in Yorkshire, and it would be a privilege to serve our beautifully diverse urban and rural region.

Service At All Saints' Parish Church Ilkley

As a teacher, I have always enjoyed working with children and young people and found great joy in supporting our church families as a leader of the Explorers children's group for several years. This ministry with children and families has led me to my current role, since 2019, as Foundation Governor of All Saints' C of E Primary School, Ilkley. It has been a privilege to work with the staff and children of the school and further develop their Christian vision and values. Being a school Governor has made me appreciate the responsibility of public service and as the Nominated Safeguarding Governor I have had the opportunity to undertake important training in many aspects of safeguarding and governance.

I served on the PCC for 3 years (2014-2017) and was a Deanery Representative at that time. This gave me an appreciation of the importance of the decisions that are made in and around our local parish. Although important decisions are often made at national level, it is vital that we do not lose sight of the difference that is made through the work of our parish churches in our cities, towns, and villages. Our churches should be the hub of our communities where we meet with each other and meet with God.

We must never forget the wider mission of the church. I was Chairperson of the Home & Overseas Mission group for 5 years until 2019. I am passionate about fairtrade and ran an annual pre-Christmas Traidcraft & Tearfund fairtrade sale in my home from 2005 to 2019, supported by my church and the local community. In recent years I have used my language teaching skills as part of a voluntary team that teaches English at the weekly Ukrainian Support Group at church.

Why I Am Standing For Election For General Synod

I have an active and engaged Christian faith and I always seek to make a difference for the better. I hope that serving on the General Synod will give me the opportunity to do this at a national level. I believe it is important to listen to and understand different points of view and to debate. I believe that the church has a crucial role to play in shaping society for ourselves, our children, and our children's children. As the Church of England faces important decisions at this time, I feel called to serve on General Synod.

Challenges Facing The Church of England

It is vital that our national church shines out as a beacon of hope and transformation for the nation in all its diversity, as well as for its members. Issues including the climate emergency, social justice, equality, safeguarding, mission & growth, and support for clergy need to be addressed. The experience and training I have gained in my professional and voluntary roles have prepared me to be part of the debate.

Equality & Inclusivity

I believe that God's love is extended to everyone, and the mission of the church is to bring more and more people into a knowledge of that love. The church should be a safe place where all are welcomed and affirmed for who they are before God. I would like to make it clear that I wholeheartedly align myself with the following statement from Inclusive Church:

"I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality."

Final Remarks

I would be a committed member of the General Synod, preparing and participating in all that is involved. I would make myself available to members of Leeds Diocese and would prayerfully seek to always give of my best.

I thank the Honorary Lay Canon Derek Twine CBE FRSA for the following words in support of my application:

"Judith's deep passion for practical Christian mission is exemplified not only through testimony but also through her lay ministry that has real impact. In her valued work with PCC and Deanery Synod, in her roles as teacher, Governor and youth worker, and in her active engagements with Fairtrade and refugees, she has consistently found expressions of faith in action. She is inclusive of all and seeks to achieve this driven by her appreciation of God's love for all. Judith's modest manner belies her intellectual acumen, and she would bring a valuable contribution as Diocesan member at General Synod."

Hon. Canon Derek Twine CBE FRSA

I would be most grateful if you would give me your first preference vote and if you are unable to do so, that you would rank me as highly as you can. I thank you for taking the time to read my election address. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Malham Cove, Yorkshire