

I am a middle aged mother of three with three grandchildren. I am currently serving my curacy at St Paul, Hamstead, which involves spending some time leading worship at St Bernard, Hamstead.

I started my working life as a psychiatric nurse, now known as a mental health nurse, and later became a CPN (community psychiatric nurse) and then commenced social work training in order to become a more holistic practitioner as managing mental health was largely based on the medical model which was limited to say the least. I then trained to teach health and social care in further education, and it was during this training that I felt called to study theology. I commenced a MA in religion and theology and started working as a missional children and families' worker soon afterwards; it was during this time my discernment into ordained ministry started. When the funding for this position ended, I trained as a RE teacher, where I remained until I commenced theological training.

Why do I want to be elected on to General Synod? First and foremost, it is because I am obedient to God's calling, and so my application is in response to such a call. And whilst I may have initially questioned such a call, it is through Synod that I believe that I will be able to do what I am so passionate about doing, which is to help to shape the Church for this and the next generation.

At 8, I remember telling my older cousin that my favourite people were God and Elvis.. In return, I got told that Elvis didn't like black people so I gave up liking him... Years later, as a teenager I got told that being a Christian was for white people, I thought that meant that God didn't like black people either but as much as I tried to give up liking God, He wouldn't give up loving me.

I love the idea of being a parish priest, I believe that it was what I was born to do but I am also passionate about being involved in helping to shape church in its widest sense, to be a place where all feel welcome and where all feel that they belong and that God loves all of us. Synod provides me with the opportunity to represent those whose voices are not heard, those whose needs are not met and those who are simply forgotten.

I represent the underrepresented and as such, my intersectionality affords me a perspective very different from the prevailing one. My theology is as diverse as my cultural background, being a first generation Black British woman of Caribbean parentage and a descendent of an enslaved people, as well as being born in the sixties....

I bring with me over thirty years experience of working in health, social care and education, as well as working in the church as a lay leader, all of which has given me a good understanding of people; such as how disability and/or neurodiversity can affect the quality of life, the effects of poverty and deprivation and how the systems and or structures which are put in place to help, can very often create their own set of problems, and further oppress already disadvantaged people. In addition to these, I have many other transferable skills which I am sure will be put to good use serving on General Synod