

# Revd Canon Catherine Grylls

## Candidate for General Synod 2024

### House of Clergy

#### What is my story?

I was born in Yorkshire and brought up in 1970s/80s in rural Hampshire where my Dad was Vicar of a multi-parish benefice. I've been an Anglican all my life, but my faith in Christ really came alive through worship as a young adult at university and on a visit to Taize. I came to Birmingham in 1992 to train as a secondary school teacher and taught for 4 years in Bordesley Green and in Handsworth. During 3 years of residential ordination training I was privileged to have the opportunity to spend a term at the College of the Transfiguration in South Africa and some time in Malawi. I have been a parish priest for 18 years in this Diocese following a curacy here, serving in suburban, inner urban and estate settings. I was a training incumbent for ten years with both SSM and stipendiary curates, have been an Area Dean, and was Warden of Readers for 6 years. I currently have a 2 year role, as part of the Mission Support and Ministries Teams, that draws on my passion to see people grow, both lay and ordained, and to enable ministry to flourish for the sake of the Kingdom and the Mission of God.

#### What do I bring?

I was a member of General Synod for eleven years, 2010-2021, and would bring useful experience to a short term appointment either now or at some point in the next two years. (Whoever comes 2nd in this election would automatically become a member of GS if another vacancy arose before the summer of 2026). I took a particular interest in environmental matters and was part of the national Environmental Working Group. I participated in the very beginnings of the LLF process in the Regional Shared Conversations on Scripture, Mission and Human Sexuality and have maintained strong relationships with sisters and brothers in Christ who hold very differing perspectives. I would have voted in favour of the Prayers of Love and Faith had I been a member of Synod in November 2023, and I would use them. I lament the pain that has been experienced by so many LGBTQ people, and I pray that we can be a church which can be truly inclusive, respectful across difference, and seeing the face of Christ in one another.

#### What are my hopes for General Synod in this season?

A General Synod that...

- serves a growing and courageous church which is faithful to Christ and characterised by diversity, participation and welcome.
- makes the most of the privilege of the Church of England to have a voice in the public arena and strengthens again the outward looking face of the Church of England.
- encourages recognition of and development of leadership and ministry amongst lay people, as well as growing vocations to ordained ministry, particularly amongst members of the GMH/UKME community, and young people.
- demonstrates the priority of the poor by, amongst other things, honouring the commitment to prioritise resources towards 'greatest need' as well as towards 'greatest opportunity'.
- acts and speaks out strongly on environmental issues, leading the church in living well with creation and working with others, of faith and no faith, in making a difference.
- honours graciously the Five Guiding Principles agreed by the House of Bishops, and the six Pastoral Principles.
- struggles honestly and humbly, but not hesitantly, with following up the work of the Jay Review and the From Lament to Action Report.
- is rooted in prayer and is committed to doing good theology
- is mindful at all times of all ages and all social contexts, listening for the quiet voices and seeking reflectively to discern the heart of God's will for the church and for all of creation.