

General Synod Election Address 2019

Archdeacon Carol Coslett –

Having been in the diocese now for 18 months and as a member of the senior leadership team I feel I am in a unique position to represent the house of clergy on General synod in this casual vacancy.

I come from a liberal catholic background and throughout my ministry, In Guildford and Southwark, prior to becoming archdeacon I have been a voice to speak out for those on the margins and facing inequality. At diocesan level I have been part of debates and shared conversations on issues of sexuality, the role of women in the Episcopate, ethnic minorities, LGBT, Education and Environmental matters. My standpoint is that I would see everyone as a “Child of God” and that all should be accepted and valued for the gifts they bring.

I feel that it is up to us, who have been given opportunities, particularly within senior leadership to make the path secure for the future of a church that is relevant and representative of our society in the 21st Century. As Archdeacon I do also have opportunities to meet with clergy individually which gives insight into particular needs around professional development and ongoing wellbeing which I know are issues to be discussed at the forthcoming synods. My role does give me some influence at a senior level which would be beneficial for our diocesan presence and profile within the wider church.

The policies that we make in the Church of England, as part of the Anglican Communion and following the Five Marks of Mission should set the example globally. Putting in place measures that can uphold Justice, Peace and the integrity of Creation (JPIC) should be a priority for all who follow the teachings of Jesus.

I would be delighted if elected to have the chance to join others in the house of clergy from our Diocese of Derby, and stand as a united voice.