

Kat Aldread

General Synod Election 2021

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Nominated by Madelaine Goddard, seconded by Kay Duckett

It has been a privilege to serve as a member of General Synod since 2015 representing the Diocese of Derby, and I am seeking your vote to elect me to serve for another term. The Church of England is at a critical juncture, and General Synod will be faced with some very tough issues over the next five years. I bring knowledge, experience, good communication skills and the ability to work well across difference.

I believe:

- Jesus is relevant to our 21st century communities, but the Church needs to do a much better job of communicating this and making real connections with the people we serve.
- As the established Church, the Church of England holds a privileged position to speak into the public square. However, years of failing to safeguard the most vulnerable and internal squabbling over full inclusion of women and LGBT+ people have decimated the Church's credibility. The Church has an important role to play to bring Christian values into public discourse, but actions speak more loudly than words and there is a great deal that needs to be done to regain public trust.
- To fulfil its mission, the Church needs to be generous, welcoming, inclusive and open; a Church where everyone can participate fully in membership and leadership, regardless of ethnicity, class or background, sexual orientation, disability or gender. I will continue to work towards this goal.
- Money is a problem that must be addressed. The hard reality is that the spending patterns of the past cannot continue into the future- we must cut our cloth accordingly. As difficult financial decisions are made, it's essential that spending is made where it's most needed, and our first priority as Christians must be to help 'the least of these' of Matthew 25.
- We must be good stewards of our resources— finances, property and our planet. The decisions we make must take into account the long term impact on people, places and the environment.
- We need to continue to find and develop good church leaders, both lay and ordained, to lead the church, contribute and serve and most importantly to enable and encourage all church members, the whole body of Christ, to live out their faith in their everyday lives.

My voting record:

- **Voted consistently in support of simplification measures**
- **Voted for climate change targets to see the Church at net zero by 2030**
- **Voted not to take note of the Bishops' Report on Human Sexuality**
- **Voted in support of better Safeguarding practice, including engagement with survivors, independent oversight and redress**

About me:

- I am originally from Michigan, USA and have lived in Chesterfield for 20+ years. I'm married to Gareth, a Derbyshire native, and we have two teenage daughters.
- I have worked as a staff member of the Parish Support Office for over seven years in a number of different roles. I am currently working in two half-time roles as Lay Vocations Officer and DAC & DMPC Administrator.
- In my years of church membership, I have served as churchwarden, treasurer, Deanery Synod & Diocesan Synod representative, children's group leader, Foodbank volunteer, youth group leader and befriending group volunteer.
- I was part of the group that established Open Table Derby, a monthly service and community of LGBTQIA people and their allies, and I am part of the team to plan services and coordinate the group.
- I enjoy reading, wild swimming in the Peak District, taking long walks with my dog, researching my family history and taking trips with my family in our caravan.
- I am a friendly, approachable person and I don't take myself too seriously. I think I have a good sense of humour, but I leave it to others to make that determination.

During my first term on Synod I have learned how Synod works, used Synod's Question time to seek out important information and established good working relationships with fellow Synod members from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. I hope that you will re-elect me so that, building on what I have learned, I can continue to serve effectively.

I ask for your vote, and I ask that you also give priority to Sian Kellogg and Jack Cooper in the House of Laity. I encourage clergy colleagues to give priority to Julian Hollywell, Alicia Dring and Jacqueline Stober in the House of Clergy. I believe that together we will work as an effective and collaborative group with Bishop Libby for the Diocese of Derby.

I am very happy to answer any questions you may have. If you need more information before reaching a decision on where to place me in the vote, please contact me on kcalldread72@gmail.com.