



**Sue Cavill - Championing 'green' issues, lay leadership, listening and the parish system**

I have been a communicant member of the Church of England since the age of 14, including membership of 27 years in the urban priority church St. Christopher's in Leicester, and since 2016 membership of All Saints and St Mary's, Sawley in the Diocese of Derby. I live in Long Eaton.

I recently completed a University of Durham certificate of higher education in Theology, Ministry and Mission with All Saints Centre, sponsored by Derby Diocese, which confirmed me in my desire to serve God as a lay person.

At St Christopher's and at All Saints and St Mary's I have run 'green' projects, working in teams. All Saints and St Mary's was recently awarded a Silver Certificate as an Eco-Church as a result. I play keyboard and have led worship on a regular basis. I have also been involved in youth work and leading small groups and I currently co-lead a small group with my husband Paul. I run a book club with the aim of reading 12 C.S. Lewis books in a year – my blog is at [www.cslewisbookclub.com](http://www.cslewisbookclub.com)

My professional background is in journalism, public relations and public consultation. I worked for many years in the NHS and led more than 20 public consultations.

I believe in the authority of the Bible as the Word of God and attend a church which could be described as broadly 'evangelical' and I also value debate and respect the views of those in different branches of the Church of England and other denominations.

My motivation for standing for General Synod can be summarised as follows:

- The church is uniquely placed as a landowner and opinion former to lead '**green**' **ecological activities** to protect God's creation. This is something I will promote.
- **Lay leadership** is not just about co-opting lay people to carry out the tasks the church is already doing, it is about discerning the gifts lay people bring from their daily lives and professions. For example, the church could benefit from the help of lay leaders who understand how to manage transition and motivate teams. I would hope to add to the current debate about lay roles without denigrating clergy roles taking into account the views of 1 Corinthians 12 about varieties of gifts.
- Running public consultations has taught me the value of hearing from all those who may be affected by an organisation's activities and by change. When I look at the church, I see that not all voices are always heard. This is true not just in the case of race and sexuality, but also sometimes seems to be the case for the clergy – huge changes can be proposed without proper discussion with those who will be expected to lead those changes. I would hope to promote **better listening** by the Church of England leadership.
- The parish system has for hundreds of years covered the country with houses of prayer which belong to local people, where they can find solace in the big events of their lives – birth, death, marriage. The parish church is therefore a marvellous platform for mission. I feel that proposals for church hubs and lay leaders need to take account of the parish system as an excellent starting point. We can do 'a new thing' without destroying the old system. I support the aims of the **Save the Parish Network** and will work to enable parishes to keep more of their own resources, freeing them for mission within their own local context.

My email is [suecavill53@gmail.com](mailto:suecavill53@gmail.com), phone 07906 398285. If you would like me to send you updates and ask your views if I am elected to the Synod, please let me know.