

General Synod Election Address

Canon Elizabeth (Lizzie) Taylor



Proposer: Andrew Gore
Lay Chair of Granta Deanery Synod

Seconder: Jenny Duke
Member Granta Deanery Synod and Ely
Diocesan Synod

As a lay person I would like to work with people from other churches, listen to them and represent their views.

It's a challenging and also exciting time for the Church of England. People across the age spectrum have been re-evaluating and trying to make sense of the world. The pandemic has given us opportunities, vision and new ways of worshipping and connecting with our communities, and the wider nation. The Church has been able to serve those in need, and our presence, schools, cathedrals and other work have been valued as never before. The Church is responding to the need to refresh and re-invigorate.

We are understanding the need to be more outward-facing, while protecting our precious heritage of local parish ministry. The national Church is looking at ways of empowering lay people so they can contribute even further to the life and work of the church.

Who Am I?

- I'm 59, married to Simon, a parish priest. We have three children – two starting out in working life and one at university.
- I work part time as a careers advisor, for St Bede's Inter-Church School in Cambridge, and for individual clients aged 15-25. Working in a state secondary school keeps me in touch with the concerns and situations that young people and families in our community are experiencing.
- Contribute in the Church of England as one of the Bishops' Advisers for ordination selection; a trustee of Women and the Church (a charity which works to resolve remaining areas of concern on gender justice in the wider Church); and as a convenor of Cambridge Churches Women's Equality Network, an informal network formed in 2016 to ask for transparency about PCC Resolutions which exclude women from ministry.
- Member of the Ely Diocesan Synod and Board of Finance, Bishop's Council, the Diocesan Strategy and Implementation Group and the diocesan Clergy Well-Being Group. Made a Lay Canon in 2020.
- Worship at my local church in South Cambridge. Involved in Messy Church and other children's work, and some evangelism initiatives.
- Professional background as a Human Resources professional, specialising in employment policy, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, recruitment and appointments, and management development.
- After a first degree at Cambridge I worked in senior level executive search for Michael Page and Spencer Stuart. I

General Synod Election Address

then did an MBA, gained CIPD membership and worked in Human Resources policy in the airline industry (for BAA and British Airways), and charities (Care International and the Alzheimer's Society), before moving to become a university and career guidance counsellor.

- After coming to faith in my late teens, I have been a committed member of the Church of England for my whole adult life. I value its breadth of outlook, ecclesial structure and the ways in which it encompasses varying traditions and theological views. I have always been heavily involved in children's and youth work, including leading on CPAS Venture camps; being part of the team which set up the Tunbridge Wells branch of Youth for Christ; running the weekly Christian Union in our local secondary school; establishing and running the parish youth group.

Why Am I Standing?

- I want the Church of England to thrive as our established church, extending its ministry to all, healthy and renewed in mission and service, and working as part of the wider Anglican Communion and global church.
- A concern at present is for the renewal of good governance for our Church. We have seen where things have gone wrong, notably in the area of Safeguarding. There's a lot to do. I'm particularly keen on working to help ensure that the Church uses proper, fit-for-purpose governance processes, which currently can be lacking or not always be understood or adhered to.

I'm interested in the better use of synods to improve the democratic contribution of lay people, and in transparency and accountability.

- I feel strongly that General Synod candidates should be completely open with you as electors about their views on matters which are likely to come up in the coming quinquennium (this has been a problem in previous General Synod elections). So I want to say here that I am so glad that the Church has rolled out the Living in Love and Faith process, and I am someone that has come to support full inclusion for all in the life of the Church. I'm not yet sure how change should be shaped, but I want to help work so that the Church can be for everyone, regardless of age, ability, race, sexuality, gender or socio-economic background.
- If elected I will approach every Synod prayerfully, and will work hard to be accessible and responsive to you, whom I will represent. I will make sure I am available to meet lay members and discuss General Synod items as they come up.

If you would like to discuss anything with me before deciding on your vote, please don't hesitate to get in touch, care of Ely Diocesan Office: Bishop Woodford House, Barton Road, Ely, Cambs CB7 4DX

Email elections@elydiocese.org

Thank you for your consideration.