

## **Eleanor Whalley, Vicar of Soham**

I am standing for General Synod because I feel called to help amplify the voices and influence of active parish clergy within that body, bringing with them as they do the experience and insight gained from everyday ministry in a wide variety of contexts. I hope I would listen and speak from the standpoint of an enthusiastic parish priest in a Cambridgeshire market town who believes in the continuing validity and relevance of the



Church of England as it has been historically conceived and understood: a public institution rather than a membership organisation, concerned with the well-being of communities and the establishment of justice and peace locally, nationally and globally; and bearing humble witness to the Kingdom of God in our midst. I would be bold in challenging approaches which unwittingly obscure those values and so contradict that essential identity. I would be diligent in seeking the opinions of parishioners, colleagues and members of the wider community on matters being considered by Synod, and I would allow those points of view to inform my own discernment and prayer. And I would be keen, where appropriate, to talk through the rationale behind Synodical decisions with those whom those decisions affect.

In essence, I am eager to see a broadening of perspective and an increase in listening, learning, honest debate and courageous and costly action amongst the membership of General Synod and within the wider Church, and I trust that in some small way my involvement might help that happen.

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