

GILL FRIGERIO

Standing for the House of Laity of General Synod

Nominated by Lorraine Baker, Assistant Warden of Readers

Seconded by Ros Wakefield, Reader and Chaplain to SWHT



Hi everyone! Please read on to find out more about me, why I am standing for General Synod and why I am asking for your first preference vote.

I am 50, married with two teenage children and have lived in Warwick since 1999. I worship at All Saints, Emscote in the Warwick Team Ministry, where I am now on the PCC and deanery synod, amongst other things. I take a particular role in our Justice and Peace work.

I work at the University of Warwick, where I spent many years as a careers advisor and since 2010 in a teaching role in the Centre for Lifelong Learning.

My doctoral study (due to complete in 2022) looks at Christian women's experiences of calling in their working lives. Through this I have connected with the Church's activities to support lay people in whole life discipleship. I am on the Advisory Group of *Setting God's People Free*, a national programme to remind the church that its lay people live our faith every day, joining in with God's ongoing creation as we work, care, play and live our lives. This has taught me a lot about how the church works nationally!

In 2015 I trained with the Diocese as a Spiritual Companion, following the year long course 'The Art of Spiritual Direction'. Since then I have offered spiritual accompaniment

to a number of faithful Christians I love enabling others to explore what God is doing in their lives. I particularly enjoy guiding pilgrims on a 'retreat in daily life', praying with scripture in imaginative, creative ways.

2017-21 I was part of the Diocesan team of Discernment Advisers and worked with candidates exploring a call to licensed or ordained ministry. Following careful, detailed and supportive conversations, I would submit a report to a Diocesan Panel. I have also sat on a number of such panels making decisions against criteria of who should progress through the selection process.

I now feel called to serve on General Synod, as the Church of England faces important decisions about its future direction.

Vision and Strategy

The Church, calling us to faith in Jesus Christ should be able to liberate us all to live life in all its fullness. But we have to be honest, the Church of England as a whole is facing difficulties. Attendance is down, resources are stretched, clergy are burning out and lay people have increasingly pressured lives. We need to be realistic about the challenges we face.

For Synod, this means creating structures and policies which will release us all towards the stated vision to be bolder and humbler, more Jesus centred and Christ shaped. This must

enable local churches to understand their best assets: local people and their gifts, experiences and understanding of their community. I want to see a church which gives people the confidence to try new things, where lay people have their talents nurtured and encouraged, and we all grow in Christ.

Inclusion

We have a lot of work to do here to make the church a place of welcome for people of all backgrounds. I believe in a church for everyone, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. We are all made in God's image, we are all invited to share in the Body of Christ. I am fully supportive of women's ministry and equality for LGBT+ Christians, at all levels and in all roles in the church.

Service, Advocacy, Justice

Churches are close to the needs of their community and as well as responding from within, we must say what we see. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted all sorts of inequalities in society, but also how the church can be Christ in the world during times of crisis. This crisis requires action from all of us to protect our planet and one another.

Listening to Each Other

I love that the Church of England is a broad church. We have more that unites us than divides us, even though this places strains

when we deal with difficult issues. I believe I can advocate for my sincerely held convictions as well as listening respectfully to those of others.

I have followed the activity of General Synod sessions in the Church Times and on social media including blogs from some synod members so I am fully aware of what General Synod involves. I am well briefed on the current issues – Living in Love and Faith, Vision and Strategy, Missional Disciples and 'Setting God's People Free', Clergy Discipline Measure, Resource Churches, Safeguarding and IICSA, and more.

Working in a University environment I am used to the language and environment of institutional governance. I can speak up when needed and operate effectively in a committee structure.

Aside from work and church activities I enjoy spending time with family and friends, knitting and sewing, running (slowly), coffee and cake, books and films and following Sheffield United.

Those who know me would say I am outgoing, friendly, energetic, principled and generous. This combination of characteristics is what led me to raise over £3000 for local charities, in particular Warwick District Foodbank and Carriers of Hope in Coventry by crocheting and raffling stuffed coronaviruses!

Thank you for reading my electoral statement, I hope you will give me your first preference vote. If you want to contact me about anything I would be very happy to hear from you.

Gill Frigerio | Bromhurst Way, Warwick, CV34 6NS gillfrigerio@gmail.com