

Christine Batchford

For General Synod



Dear elector, I am writing to ask for your vote in the election of a lay representative to the General Synod.

Proposer: Kinder Kalsi - Attercliffe Denary
Seconded: David Castle - Rotherham Denary

about me.

I have lived and worked in Rotherham for 8 years, with the previous 25 years spent in different parts of Sheffield.

As a young adult I worked with Jackie Pullinger in Hong Kong, amongst Chinese drug addicts. As well as meeting my husband Phil there, I developed a life-long call to show the love of God to those who are excluded and marginalised.

I didn't follow Phil down the route to ordination, but became a community builder in both paid and unpaid roles in some of the most challenging areas of Sheffield. Starting off in the old Norfolk Park (*remember the tower blocks??*) we worshiped in a portacabin on the estate. Then followed Sharrow and Upperthorpe, where we raised our children in a multi-cultural environment.

Now at Rotherham Minster I have set up a social supermarket at the church, supporting those who are struggling to afford the basics.

The longer I go on my journey with Jesus, the more I am amazed by "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3v18)

It is a love that blows my mind time after time and constantly surprises me seeing God is at work in the most unexpected people and places.

I want to be in a church where everyone can flourish and contribute; we are all made in God's image with our gender, ethnicity, background, abilities, sexuality and uniqueness being a gift.

Christine's faith and passion are reflected in her ministry – both present and past -where she gathers people together, builds community and seeks to empower others. I can't think of a better person to be on General Synod, than Christine – who brings these skills and a deep wisdom founded in her prayer and life experience.

Captain Kinder Kalsi, Attercliffe Denary

What can I bring to Synod?

advocating for communities who are underrepresented.

The worldwide family of God - Having a multi-cultural background (*no, you wouldn't know it to look at me!*) and having lived overseas, I love the blessings that different nationalities bring to a community. I will promote and celebrate the breadth of the anglican communion.

Growing the church poorer - Historically the church of England has had the biggest welcome for the wealthiest and most educated. This is not Jesus' way and He has given me a heart to live with and advocate for those who have the least. At Rotherham Minster it has been a joy to see the way a church is blessed when it is able to fully include those who have little. However, there are still too many barriers to those from poorer backgrounds playing a full role in the church, including as priests. I will seek to redress this balance.

breadth of experience.

I have experience of a wide range of worshiping contexts, styles and theologies (from happy clappy to smells and bells) and have come to appreciate a church that allows space for this difference. Becoming more like Jesus is our goal, not more like each other. I have strongly held views, but will always seek to listen to and understand different opinions and find common ground where possible.

who would be a vicar?!

Having been married to a member of the clergy for 25 years I am aware of the immense pressures of ordained ministry. I also see the teamwork that is possible in a mixed lay and ordained team. I will do all I can to support clergy wellbeing and to empower the laity to play a full part in church leadership.

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 the Lord's table. I am fully supportive of women's ministry and equality for LGBT+ Christians, at all levels and in all roles in the church

I hope you will give me your first preference vote, with Cathy Rodes, another inclusive candidate, as your second preference

