



SUE SHIRT

House of Laity,
St Augustine's Church,
Sheffield.

I feel called to serve on General Synod because I am deeply rooted to the Anglican Church.

I am committed to EQUALITY for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.

I have worked as a physiotherapist in the NHS for 38 years, including neurological rehabilitation, managing a stand alone rehab centre in Rotherham, supporting patients with learning disabilities and Falls Lead in Sheffield Community Therapy Service. I have an MSc in Health Care Practice. My dissertation was on what makes a team work well.

Collaboration in the face of differences, stereotyping and assumptions of others is one of my key motivating drivers.

During my final year of physio training, I was confirmed at Southwark Cathedral in 1985. Instruction was given by the Hospital Chaplain- who was transformative for my faith.

I was guided by the mantra 'if you are too busy for God then you are too busy!' It was my final year, but I found room for God- and I have done so ever since.

I volunteered with the YWCA in my youth - including representing the 'Y' at ecumenical conferences in East Germany and Palestine.

I have a deep commitment to the Anglican Church- its breadth and depth is far reaching. All my ecumenical encounters only serve to reinforce this.

I grew up in a Naval family. Church was often a consecrated Nissen hut. Here I learnt early on that God can be worshipped anywhere.

I belong to an ecumenical walking pilgrimage to Walsingham during Holy Week- Pilgrim Cross (formerly Student Cross). I have been actively involved with the liturgy planning for this for over 20 years- both for adults and children.

I have been married to Dom for over 30 years. He is a Roman Catholic and I have learnt so much from him and the RC church (but am still happy to be Anglican!).

We have 2 children-our daughter still lives with us and our 3 cats and dog. There is neurodiversity in our family. I live with it and truly see how rich our world is because of it.

Why I would like the opportunity to serve on General Synod.

<u>GRACE</u>	<u>HOPE</u>	<u>FAITH</u>	<u>LOVE</u>
It is the grace of God that helps me to see that everything and everyone is part of his creation. St Francis teaches us that everything is sacred as it has been held in the Creator's Hands. It is not for me to judge. Trying to walk a mile in another's shoes would be beyond most of us. I am bringing my lifetime of skills of listening and trying to understand what is being said. And a deeply held respect for others- by the Grace of God.	What gives me hope for the Anglican Church is not just the diversity of churches that exist, but the people who worship within. We walk through many parishes on our 100 mile pilgrimage to Walsingham each year. Most are not wealthy and can be very rural, but we are welcomed with such love and joy and generosity. My spirit is renewed each year by this- we are one church -and we will find innovative ways to keep going.	I am a practicing and practising Christian. It is a wonderful lifelong adventure- and I am slowly getting better at it! My faith has been influenced by prayers that have been answered directly. Also by people of faith and no faith who I have met along the way. I did not expect to be nominated for General Synod, but my faith in God- and that all shall be well -is steadfast.	Loving your neighbour as you love yourself, is a very difficult thing to do. But my Anglican faith has always helped me to understand more clearly what this truly means. It is not about exclusion, judgement or turning people away. It is about welcoming those who are different, a bit irritating or 'not like me'. Christ's love is inclusive, non-judgemental and does not turn anyone away. I would bring what I have of this Love, to General Synod.

My contact details are: sueshirt@googlemail.com Please contact me if you have any questions or comments

ELECTION STATEMENT of Susan Shirt

Thank you so much for taking your time to read my statement. Please can I ask you for your first preference vote, or failing that, your highest possible vote.

AI has not been used in the writing of this statement.