

Susan Kennaugh – Election Address for General Synod Elections 2021

It has been an enormous privilege to serve the diocese for what became a six year term on General Synod. We have wrestled with some very difficult issues which at times have been emotionally draining. We strive in a prayerful way to “rebuild the church” as the Catholic priest Father Raniero reminded us of in his sermon at the inaugural service in Westminster Abbey back in 2015. We hoped and held in mind Pope Francis’s vision of “reconciled diversity”.

After much thought and consideration I have decided to stand again for re-election. I am a regular communicant of St Matthew’s Church in Douglas and I am on the Electoral Roll there.

Having been a member of General Synod for these past years I would be very honoured to be allowed to continue this work and service to the diocese. There is much important work that needs to continue in the new Synod to tie in with Archbishop Stephen’s hope for a *Simpler, Bolder and Humbler* church.

I have found that it takes at least two years to “learn the ropes” in Synod and to feel comfortable with the processes and formats for sessions. You make new friends and have interesting discussions which all lead to a collaborative environment. Much of this has sadly been lost in the last eighteen months where we have been unable to meet in person.

I hope if I am re-elected that my “background knowledge” will be put to good use when we are debating and considering the important items such as safeguarding and the IICSA Independent Report, Living in Love and Faith and hope of simplifying many of The Church Of England procedures. There is much unrest in the new vision and concerns are real that our Parish system may be abolished for example. These are all topics where the new Synod must try to discern God’s way.

Thank you for your support over this Synod term and I hope and pray that we may all emerge from the pandemic and work together to build God’s Kingdom.

Susan Kennaugh