

The Revd Canon Sue Groom

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Proposer: Canon Lynda Klimas

Secunder: Revd Anne Hindle

Election Address for General Synod 2015



A bit about me

- I am passionate about parish ministry, developing vocations in individuals and parishes, and theological education (teaching biblical studies and hermeneutics). Since ordination in the Diocese of London (deacon 1996, priest 1997), I have always combined these three strands to my ministry. I love the variety and challenge of juggling different responsibilities simultaneously. I am also close to completing a DThM with Durham University investigating formation in training for ordination.
- I trained for ordination at St John's College, Nottingham then served two curacies and an incumbency in the urban Willesden Episcopal Area before becoming Director of Deanery Licensed Ministers in the Kensington Episcopal Area. In 2009 I moved to the Diocese of St Albans to become half-time Priest in Charge of Henlow and Langford in Central Bedfordshire and half-time Assistant DDO. Two years later I became DDO whilst remaining Priest in Charge of Henlow and Langford. I love living and ministering in rural Bedfordshire but I am less keen on the A1, which I often have to drive up and down! In 2014 I became an Honorary Canon of St Alban's Abbey.

Important Issues

- The Reform and Renewal Debate has been the catalyst in my decision to stand for General Synod for the first time.
- Resourcing Ministerial Education: I believe that the whole system is teetering on the edge of collapse. We definitely need reform but we must ensure that we get it right for the long term, not simply adopt quick fixes to avert financial crises. I welcome review of the selection criteria. I would fight to keep centrally funded training for clergy and support its introduction for licensed lay workers. I oppose DDOs being responsible for creating Individual Learning Plans for ordinands. We need greater integration between IME Phases 1 and 2. I could go on ☺ – please contact me for more details.
- I believe that Developing Discipleship is key to the survival of the Church and I am passionate about developing the ministry of all God's people. I welcome the Ten Marks of Discipleship and support the proposal for a revised Catechism.
- I welcome the work on Simplification, agreeing with proposals for streamlining Statements of Particulars for SSMs and Bishops' Mission Orders but I would argue against some of the proposals concerning Pastoral Reorganisation.

Synods, Councils and Committees

- For most of my time in the Diocese of London I was a member of Diocesan Synod. Since moving to St Albans I have been an elected member of this Diocesan Synod.
- I have served on the Councils of three different Regional Training Courses.
- In April 2015 I was invited onto the Finance Panel of Ministry Division to represent DDOs and in July I was appointed to the national Vocations Working Group chaired by the Bishop of Guildford.