

Dr JOAN BAILEY MBE

Candidate for General Synod 2021



WHY VOTE FOR ME

I will bring to Synod an established wealth of life experience that comes from academia and practice working locally, nationally, and internationally with diverse communities.

I have promoted social justice at all levels, leading internationally on training around Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI).

As a local Councillor I held the Portfolio for Social Justice, Inclusion and Cohesion

I can draw on the experience of being from a Black and Minority Ethnic Group, from being a woman and from experience of being different. This knowledge allows me to empathise with others on how they encounter society and the people within it. I want to see inclusive, embracing and accepting churches where everyone feels welcome, accepted, and valued.

I want to encourage dialogue that listens to what people have to say and contribute, that makes them feel safe and secure to share, to be heard and to know that we are open to challenge to constructive criticism and to change.

ABOUT ME

Family and Faith are integral elements of my life. I have grown up and served in the church since a small child.

I have campaigned and advocated for Social Justice, Inclusion and Equality all my life

I am a qualified Social Worker, Teacher and Youth and Community Worker

I am currently employed as a Senior Lecturer at the local University teaching on a range of subjects linked to contemporary social issues

Link to my academic profile here: - <https://www.beds.ac.uk/howtoapply/departments/appliedsocialsciences/staff/joan-bailey/>

I have been running a well-established voluntary sector organisation working with the most vulnerable people in the community for over 20 years.

<https://www.saferlutonpartnership.co.uk/>

I have served as a Justice of Peace for over 20 years

I was a Councillor for Luton Borough Council from 2004 to 2014 serving on several committees.

Children's Safety is paramount to me. I have been elected as the Safeguarding Officer for my organisation, an organisation where I am a Trustee and for our Church.

I am an appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire supporting its communities and the people they serve.

MY SUPPORTERS

My nominator for this election is: -

Peter Adams Luton Deanery and Diocesan lay chair, member of GS 2015-20.

I have been seconded by Jill Dickson - Luton Deanery Synod Member and supported by my congregation and the community to stand for Election

COMMUNITY

The role of the church in the community is an important aspect of Christian life for me. In the current economic climate, I feel we need to address the concerns of those who live in our communities. The church has a role in supporting those that are struggling, hurting and desperate. I am a huge supporter of community projects and those that are run from places of faith have been shown to be welcoming and instrumental in helping people find faith in their lives. I am driven to deliver work in our church community by these words: -

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me. ...
Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

—Matthew 25:35-36, 40

If we live our lives by this passage and open our hearts and our churches, I truly believe that the Church of England will deliver the fundamental principles of the Christian faith

CONTACT ME

Thank you for reading this.

If you feel that, on your behalf, I could make a difference, please give me your first, or high preference vote.

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E Mail jdbailey1@hotmail.co.uk

MY FAITH

I am a devoted Christian who currently worships at Holy Cross, Marsh in Luton.

I come from a family who have been committed Christians for several generations. I grew up in church with my parents as a young child. Church was not an extra curricula activity, it was part of what we did in our lives, like going to school or work. We learnt to be part of the church and its community.

I attended Sunday School from the age of 4 and by 16 was part of the support team teaching the junior age children. At 18 I had my own Sunday School class. I have taught children in church for 42 years, the last 25 being the Junior Church Leader at Holy Cross.

I am a huge advocate of children's involvement in Church and encourage them serve and get involved in the wider work of the church through community events, social events, and Family worship.

I want to create a space where children and young people choose faith and church for themselves, not because they are forced to adopt it. I want them to feel the God can be their best friend.

While I enjoy worship in a Society church, I have respect for different traditions and am committed to work for a Church of England where mutual flourishing is its greatest strength

I want to see churches as a spiritual home for all, where diversity is welcomed, and where the marginalised can find a place.

I am vocal about the importance of faith and fellowship but I am not afraid to discuss and debate issues and certainly not afraid to challenge where this is required.