

Rebecca Siân Mynett

Standing for the House of Laity, General Synod Elections 2021

Hello,

My name is Rebecca Mynett, but I'm usually known as Becky.

I am grateful to Anthony Archer and Gill Merrick for proposing and seconding my nomination for election to the House of Laity.

I know the diocese well, having arrived in St Albans in 2001 to join the Abbey Root Group (now the Alban Interns). Since then, I have been actively involved at St Stephen's & St Julian's in St Albans, St Etheldreda's in Hatfield and St Nicholas' in Barton-le-Clay (where I still help run Messy Church). I am now based at St Peter's & St Paul's in Flitwick, where I am Director of Music.

I was licensed as a Reader in 2013 and have served on the Diocesan Readers Committee. I have been on PCCs in both towns and villages, on the Ampthill and Shefford Deanery Synod and am currently on Diocesan Synod. I believe these experiences make me well qualified to represent the diocese's interests at General Synod.

My Background

I grew up in the village of Hurstpierpoint in Sussex where I belonged to my Parish Church choir and youth group. I was even on the PCC as a teenager!

I then studied music and French at Cardiff University, where I was an active member of the University Anglican Society and University Church Choir. My third year was spent studying music in Rouen in France, during which time I was involved with the Anglican Chaplaincy, which was served by the Mission to Seafarers. This has given me experience of the wider Anglican Communion, in the Diocese of Europe and the Church in Wales.

After my degree, I trained as a music teacher, but later took a break from teaching to take an MA in English Cathedral Music at Exeter University. It was during this time that I felt a call to explore my vocation and subsequently came to St Albans.

I now live in Barton-le-Clay with my husband and ten-year-old son and work mainly as a freelance translator of tourist brochures and academic history books from French to English, alongside my church work.

Faith and Calling

"God is love, and those who live in love, live in God." (1 John 4.16)

This is the Bible verse that best encapsulates my faith. Since I was a teenager I have sensed that my calling is to work within the church to help people understand the love of God, which I mainly do through preaching, teaching and co-ordinating and directing music in the liturgy.



Nominated by Anthony Archer
General Synod (1993 – 2010 & 2015 – 2021)
Berkhamsted Deanery

Seconded by Gill Merrick
Barton-le-Clay, Ampthill & Shefford Deanery

Why vote for me?

I have:

- Good knowledge of different areas and aspects of the diocese
- Experience of the wider Anglican church and knowledge of Church history and liturgy
- Experience of Reader Ministry and the practicalities of parish life

What do I stand for?

A Sustainable Church that addresses:

- Climate Action
- Inclusion and Equality
- Reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure
- Community Engagement
- Sustainable Finances

Becky Mynett

8 Portobello Close, Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire, MK45 4SN, UK.
music@flitwickchurch.org



Rebecca Siân Mynett

Standing for the House of Laity, General Synod Elections 2021

A Sustaining and Sustainable Church

If the Church of England is to continue to sustain people in the Christian faith – as it has over the centuries – we must ensure it has a sustainable future. In my view, the most pressing challenges General Synod will need to address are:

Climate Action

The climate emergency is the biggest sustainability challenge facing God's creation. **The church should be taking a leading role in pressing for climate action from governments, businesses, communities and individuals.** I believe we could do more to help parishes meet the church's target of net zero by 2030. Creative solutions will be needed, such as making it easier for churches and vicarages to install sustainable energy solutions and encouraging individuals to live more sustainably.

Inclusion and Equality

Constant infighting about sexuality, a failure to address racial injustice and frequent inaccessibility to disabled people, sadly, makes the church appear unloving and unattractive to many. Yet God's love is for all people equally. Therefore, **I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.** I also believe we should **value the contribution of people of all ages**, recognising that adults and children have things to learn from each other.

Reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure

This is one of the most urgent internal issues facing the next synod. The present system is inefficient, prone to misuse and has caused considerable distress to many clergy and their families without always providing redress for legitimate complaints. On this issue I support the proposals for reform made by the Ecclesiastical Law Society.

Community Engagement

The pandemic has forced many churches to engage with their local communities in new ways. I think it is important that we continue to **help parishes engage with their communities through social media, social action and engaging, inclusive worship**, so more people are drawn to love God and neighbour. Of course, this will require adequate funding and resourcing, which brings us to:

Church Finance

The pandemic has further stretched the church's financial sustainability. Difficult decisions are needed to ensure frontline clergy posts and parish expenses are financially sustainable. I believe we need to **prioritise spending that supports mission, social action and pastoral ministry.** Again, creative solutions will be needed, such as finding ways to relieve parishes of the need to fund maintenance of our historic buildings while still enabling them to be used for worship.

"Becky brings a breadth of ministry experience and is clear on the challenges facing the Church. She will be an excellent representative of the diocese and contributor to debates in General Synod."

Anthony Archer

Nominated by Anthony Archer
General Synod (1993 – 2010 & 2013 – 2021)
Berkhamsted Deanery.

Seconded by Gill Merrick
Barton-le-Clay, Ampthill & Shefford Deanery

Why vote for me?

I have:

- Good knowledge of different areas and aspects of the diocese
- Experience of the wider Anglican church and knowledge of Church history and liturgy
- Experience of Reader Ministry and the practicalities of parish life

What do I stand for?

A Sustainable Church that addresses:

- Climate Action
- Inclusion and Equality
- Reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure
- Community Engagement
- Sustainable Finances

*Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. I hope you will give me your first preference vote.
Don't forget that votes must be in by Friday 8th October.*
