

## CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL SYNOD – THE REVD CANON RUTH CROSSLEY



I would like to offer myself to serve the Diocese of Carlisle and the wider church by standing for election to General Synod and ask that you give me your first vote.

I have wide experience, which I believe may be a helpful contribution to the life of the Church of England at the present time.

As CME Officer in the diocese I am involved with clergy training and development. This role has enabled me to regularly have contact with most of the clergy in the diocese, and I value the ministry each one offers. I am also experienced as a Priest being Priest in charge at Levens, so I understand the challenges and joys of our vocation.

I was elected onto General Synod 2 years ago and have found the experience of being part of this body a great privilege. I made my maiden speech on the issue of Domestic Abuse, something that is dear to my heart as chair of trustees of Springfield – a refuge for women in Kendal with Church of England roots as its foundation.

In the current situation of declining clergy numbers there is a need to change the way we organize ministry, I am both excited and concerned about what this means for current serving clergy. I am concerned about the extra pressure this may put on clergy and how best to enable clergy to adapt. I am excited about the possibility of belonging to a Church that encourages creativity. Tradition is important, but for the Church to thrive in the 21st century we will need to be innovative with our liturgy, our structures, and our ways of working. I am also therefore encouraged by the growing and developing lay ministry in our parishes and I enjoy seeing people grow in faith, in confidence and in leadership.

I think that much of the Reform and Renewal agenda, which will continue to be part of the General Synod debates for the newly elected synod, is very much in line with our own diocesan priorities. If elected I would keep a close watch on the recommendations that may come forward in these debates and how they would affect us in the diocese, specifically with reference to 'Resourcing Ministerial Education'.

The challenge to the Church of reform and renewal is practical and also spiritual and we need to strengthen all that we do with prayer and an unshakable confidence in God, who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or conceive. I think the way that the whole of synod agenda is underpinned with prayer is how we should work in all layers of church business.

**Mission.** I enjoy being part of the Anglican Church but am also passionate about working ecumenically where possible. Having been brought up in the Methodist Church and the Anglican Church I have always had a broad outlook. In Levens there is a Methodist Chapel and we work closely together with its members along with other Christians from the Roman Catholic and Free Churches on many outreach projects in the village. This enables us to proclaim together the faith afresh in our village. We have a God of mission and I believe the role of every Christian is to use their gifts and skills to work with God in that task. I feel proud to belong to a diocese that has such a focus and have enjoyed collaborating with others in the Kent Estuary to facilitate the employment of a Youth Worker for our area.

**World Issues** The synod does look at things wider than its own organisation and beyond the church. I believe it is really important as part of the Church's mission to speak with a Christian voice into situations in society. The recent Climate debates in synod will continue to be an issue and as part of an eco-congregation I am aware of all we need to try to do to promote the care for the future health of creation.

**Inclusivity** I was delighted that the church found a good way to enable women to be Bishops, whilst enabling the whole church to continue to flourish. As someone who attended the recent 'shared conversations' that are going on around the country, I am aware that the sexuality and gender debate will continue. For me and others the matter that is fundamental to this issue is how we read and interpret scripture. I think inclusivity is important – Jesus mixed with all sorts of people that the establishment of the time thought unworthy. Inclusivity means everyone, so as the Church has found a way to include everyone in leadership roles, then I am sure there will be a way through for us together on this subject too. Throughout the whole process I think it important to prayerfully **listen to one another** as we move forward in trust.

**About me:**

- I was born in Manchester and attended North Manchester Grammar School for Girls
- I was brought up in a Christian family as a Anglican in the morning and Methodist in the afternoon
- I trained as a children's nurse
- I married John in 1976 (he was ordained in 1994)
- I attended St George's Church Kendal and I was involved in the PCC, Baptism Preparation, Youth Work, and Diocesan Synod as lay person
- Immediately prior to ordination I worked for Barclays Bank, latterly, in training and development and project management
- I trained at Cranmer Hall for ordination and was ordained deacon in 2002
- I served a curacy in the Cartmel Peninsula Team Ministry which was a fantastic experience of collaborative ministry
- I have served for the last 9 years as CME Officer in the Diocese and Priest in charge of Levens.
- I have been an elected member of Bishop's Council for the last 8 years.

*I am happy to be contacted if you would like any clarification or more information:  
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*Proposer: The Venerable George Howe  
Secunder: Revd Canon Gill Hart*