

## Election Address of Lilian Hopkins

I was born and brought up in Brampton, east of Carlisle. I have continued to worship at and keep my links with St. Martin's Church, Brampton whilst spending my working life as a planning officer in Westmorland and Furness. While living in Kendal I have worshipped at Kendal Parish Church but, having recently retired, I shall soon be returning to the family home in Brampton.

My beliefs and principles have been formed by the broad, liberal and inclusive tradition of the church in which I was raised. I am not a member of any church pressure groups. I am strongly ecumenical in attitude and committed to lay involvement in the synodical government of the church. I think lay knowledge of working in the secular world and our experiences there are a particularly valuable contribution. I have been a member of the PCC at Kendal since 1996 and its standing committee shortly after that. Over that time I have been a member of Kendal Deanery Synod of which I have been Lay Chair for the last three and a half years. I have also been a member of the Diocesan Synod for three years. Since retiring I have chaired the initial Ministry Strategy Feedback and Advisory Group and have become Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Group dealing with Faculty Applications all over the county.

Having had a working life in local government, formal procedures, documentation and committee work have become second nature to me and without the ties of work or a dependent family I would now have the time to devote to General Synod as the Church faces the challenges of modern life and fast changing attitudes.

I think it is important that we do not ignore potentially divisive issues but that we also continue to talk to each other recognising that we are all bound together in the love of God. I believe that the ties that bind us together are greater than the differences between us. As a country diocese we need to be able to put the rural perspective into our national church debate. I hope to be able to serve you and the diocese in these ways.

Lily Hopkins