

## General Synod Elections 2015

# Deirdre Bryant

### **About myself**

I am a lifelong Christian, a proud mother and grandmother, and a recently retired primary school teacher. My Christian journey has brought me to my spiritual home in the Anglican Catholic church – not surprising, I suppose, given that my mother was an Anglican, and my father a Roman Catholic convert. I have had various roles in church life, among them, Sunday School teacher, churchwarden, and tutor to adults on a Diocesan Foundation Course. In St Agatha's Sparkbrook I am currently responsible for safeguarding, and helping to steer our church through the challenging process of Interregnum.



### **Today**

At this stage in my life, I am most concerned about how we treat each other for the greater good. At the time of writing, seventy-one migrant people have just been discovered dead in a lorry. I have read the accounts and the often predictable rants that follow in social media. How do we deal with this and the other atrocities that exist around us? What do we tell our children and how do we equip them to survive as Christians in our world?

### **Supporting children**

I have taught RE to children, between the ages of five and eleven, of different faiths, for many years within the state system. Without exception, children of faith were eager to talk about and share their experiences proudly, and they naturally compared their beliefs in a respectful way. They learned about the major faiths of their wider community so that they would begin to be equipped to live in it, and to

feel confident to hold beliefs that were different from others without fear.

I stand, therefore, for a greater understanding of other faiths, for continued dialogue between our church leaders and leaders of other faiths so that our children can feel confident to share their faith in the wider world beyond the classroom, and so that we can be the leaven in our communities, working for peace and reconciliation. I believe we have a responsibility to strive to make that happen.

### **General Synod**

I stand for the unity of the Anglican Church in its rich diversity of practice. We have been through turbulent times, which have often made us introspective and anxious. As an Anglo-Catholic I believe that we must now move forward to make our church stronger in the world, learning from each other as people of faith both inside and outside the church, that all may flourish.

### **And finally...**

I offer my experience as a Christian for over sixty years, my faith which is at the heart of me and guides my life, and my passion for this church of ours, and for its continued growth and development in the service of God.

Thank you for taking time to read my address. I hope you will consider giving me your first or second preference vote – I will do my best! Feel free to contact me at:

[deirdre.bryant@btopenworld.com](mailto:deirdre.bryant@btopenworld.com)

Proposer: **Catherine Goodier**

City Deanery

Seconder: **Rosalind Bolton**

City Deanery