



Gill Gould

General Synod (House of Laity)

Candidate 2015

I am seeking your support to be elected to General Synod for the next five year term. I have been proposed by Rebekah Horton (Warley Deanery) and seconded by David Eynon (Warley Deanery).

Your choice of representatives for the new General Synod will be crucial in ensuring your voice is heard in the debates, resolutions and legislation over the next five year term, covering key areas including Shared Conversations on Sexuality, Scripture and Mission, Revision of Liturgies, Climate Change, Reform and Renewal and much more.

Please feel free to contact me by telephone, email or post in the coming weeks should you wish to discuss anything to do with the General Synod elections. My contact details are below.

Laity

I am passionate about the laity being informed and inspired, equipped and excited, nurtured and nourished, sustained and supported in their journey of faith. I am committed to a laity who knows itself as more than 'non ordained' and who is confident in this knowledge and free to flourish in both 'scattered' and 'gathered' models of church and in the wider society. Such a laity would work creatively and effectively to play a full part in developing and sustaining a broad vision of discipleship and ministry and what that means to people in their everyday lives in their communities.

Inclusivity

I am totally committed to full inclusivity in both church and society for all, irrespective of gender, race, class, ethnic origin, sexual orientation and disability. I work towards eradicating prejudice and exclusion in my everyday life, my work and my involvement in both WATCH (Women and the Church) and Changing Attitude. I support the full inclusion and participation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered people in all areas of church including lay and ordained ministry.

Community

I am passionate and committed to exploring with communities what they want to create, and build sustainable, healthy, engaged lives. I am vice chair of Diocesan Community Projects Committee which works for social justice, to tackle issues of poverty and to work together with communities to build opportunities for local people to have a greater impact on their lives and the lives of others. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Dorothy Parkes Community Centre in Smethwick, who work to provide opportunities

to bring people and organisations together in a spirit of friendship and equality, to encourage the people and community to thrive.

If I am elected

I would welcome the opportunity to explore with people what it is they want from their elected representatives and find opportunities to make their voices heard on matters debated and decided upon by General Synod. I am passionate about good practice and representational systems of governance which offer growth and development for all. To this end I am willing to both support and challenge the system.

I would look forward to serving the people who have elected me as fully as possible through my existing commitments and would welcome the opportunity to develop new roles and responsibilities.

I would be delighted to have the opportunity to bring together my passion for people, community and inclusivity and my theological training, to play a part in the important work of General Synod.

Biographical Information

I was born in 1953 in Rugby in Warwickshire. I have a Bachelor of Theology Degree from Oxford University and a Master of Arts Degree in Religion and Culture and a Post graduate Diploma in Applied Theology from Birmingham University.

I am a member of Old Church, Smethwick and I currently serve on Deanery and Diocesan Synod and have done so since 2005.

I am Secretary of WATCH (Women and the Church) National Committee and Convenor of the WATCH Laity Task Force. I am a member of Changing Attitude and have served as Secretary and Co Convenor of the Birmingham Diocesan Group.

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September 2015

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