

# RACHEL JEPSON

**Proposer:** Trevor Lewis, St Luke's Church Centre, Lee Bank,  
Chairperson Central Birmingham Deanery  
**Seconded:** Paula Gooder, St Francis, Bournville, Moseley Deanery,  
Member of General Synod 2005-2015

## Dear Deanery Synod Member

I am seeking re-election to serve the laity of Birmingham Diocese for a fourth term on General Synod.

### About me:

*I have been involved in education for more than twenty years as a teacher, member of the senior leadership team, Religious Education and Collective Worship co-ordinators, and lecturer. I see teaching as a vocation. I enjoy the challenges of facilitating children's journey of learning while hoping to instil a life-long love of learning.*

*My commitment and enthusiasm for Religious Education led to a Farmington Institute Millennium Award and my doctoral research at St John's College, University of Durham exploring children's concepts of death and life after death.*

### The issues:

It has been an enormous privilege to serve our Diocese as a lay member for the last fifteen years. I have greatly enjoyed representing you, engaging with many of you on the various issues Synod has discussed and reporting back to my Deanery and Diocesan Synods over the years. Throughout my time on Synod, I have acquired a thorough understanding of synodical government.

I have contributed much during this time and I have a lot more to offer the Diocese and the Church by remaining on General Synod. I will continue to act as a bridge between the governance of the Church of England and its members.

I am aware that the new Synod will have to address many challenging issues.

The **Reform and Renewal agenda** analysing how the Church could modernise will be one of the key internal items of business. This is inevitable as long as the role of the laity is not undermined.

I am passionate about education and mission. I am in favour of **building an inclusive Church** which endeavours by grace, to come alongside people from all walks of life and be open to all, while enabling everyone to participate fully in its membership and leadership. Currently, the Church is undertaking shared conversations on 'Scripture, Mission and Human Sexuality'. I will listen to and understand those who have a more conservative opinion than my own with the view to finding a way forward together, even if it is in good disagreement.

As an educationalist, I will campaign for the Church to further its commitment to the place of **children and young people** in the church family and society. The need for furthering **ecumenical partnerships and inter-faith relations** through maintaining dialogue also continue to be important issues for our increasingly diverse communities.

## Playing an active part in the life of General Synod:

- I have a record of attending every day Synod has met
- As part of Synod's daily worship, I have led the prayers several times
- Member of the 'Make Synod More User-Friendly Group'



- **Spoken twice and voted in favour of having women bishops**
- Gave my maiden speech in the 'Voices from Africa' debate
- Regularly put in written questions, particularly to the Board of Education
- Elected by members of General Synod to be its representative on the Council for Christian Unity; Churches Together Assembly and Forum
- Appointed a member of the Steering Committee for the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure (legislation)
- Appointed to serve on Revision Committees: Draft Care of Cathedrals Amendment Measure (legislation); the Additional Collects (liturgy); Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure (legislation)
- Appointed to represent General Synod as a governor of The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham since 2013
- Appointed a member of the standing committee of Affirming Catholicism of General Synod (the modern catholic movement)
- Member of WATCH (Women and the Church) and Inclusive Church

## Contributing to St Martin-in-the-Bull Ring, and the wider community:

- *Chaired the PCC 2008-2011*
- *Longstanding member of the Deanery and Diocesan Synods*
- *Participant on the first Malawi Youth Exchange and co-led the following Exchange to Malawi*
- *I have served on the Diocesan Board of Education*
- *I represent the Diocese on Birmingham's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) since 2006*
- *Member of Bishop's Council since 2005*

Please consider giving me your **1<sup>st</sup> preference vote**.

Thank you for reading this and if you would like to contact me to discuss any matter, please do.

With every good wish.