



## **A General Synod Election Address from Joan Beck.**

Thank you for reading this address - I hope it will provide sufficient information for you to give me your vote. I believe that being a member of the General Synod is an excellent opportunity to use my skills and experience and to continue to put my faith into practice. I also think that I can take the views of parishes to Synod while still being able to see the

big picture.

I am an American by birth but have spent the last 40 years living and working in England. I have been married to my husband, Martin, for nearly 39 years, we have one daughter and two beautiful grandchildren, the youngest of whom I am pictured with above.

I have served as a PCC member at Bawtry with Austerfield PCC and as a Representative on the Bassetlaw and Bawtry Deanery Synod. I have recently been confirmed in post as a Diocesan Synod Representative. I have completed the Diocese's Preaching Lite course and am enjoying putting my learning into practice. I believe in the power of prayer and am trying to make my life a life of prayer in every circumstance. I also firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives- one that will be in our best interests. I believe everyone has a positive contribution to make to society and to building God's Kingdom regardless of position, age, disability, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

I am standing for election to the General Synod because I believe in the centrality of the Church of England to the people of this country; however I believe that the Church of England needs to change in keeping with the times and the resources available to it. I want the church to be fair, generous, welcoming, open and inclusive but I also want it not to be afraid of having a view on issues close to people's hearts. The Church of England will have many challenges in the next five years- and areas about which it should articulate a view based on Christian principles. Issues like homelessness, increasing poverty, social injustice, child sexual exploitation, refugees. Issues around climate change, managing within resources, involving children in

worship, clarity with regard to same sex marriage, safeguarding of children and adults.

These are challenges which we must address, but within the sense of Church, faith, fellowship, prayer and love. The solution does not grow out of common humanity but out of the faith we share, the direction of the Holy Spirit and our belief in the great commandment to love one another as ourselves.

In addressing some of the challenges in relation to Church growth and the numbers of young people attending services I would advocate a wholesale consideration of the structure of the Church, including the number and boundaries of Dioceses. Such a measure could free up valuable resources for employing youth workers and additional clergy.

I am a registered social worker and recently retired from a post of Director of Adults and Community Services. I am currently the Independent Chair of an Adult's Safeguarding Board. I am a trustee of two charities. Having been a senior Local Government officer for many years I am experienced in speaking out for those unable to speak for themselves or sometimes voicing unpopular views if I believe them to be right. I am interested in people and able to talk to people from all walks of life. I also understand the workings and deliberations of large organisations. I have a realistic understanding of what is achievable in this rapidly changing world.

I am known to be fair, tolerant, confident, committed and compassionate.

In voting for me you are voting for a person of high integrity and with an ethical stance who is willing to weigh up every argument on its merits, based on biblical principles, and vote accordingly.

Joan Beck

If you want to know more-please email me at [joan.beck@outlook.com](mailto:joan.beck@outlook.com) putting General Synod in the subject line.