

I have been ordained for 20 years serving most of the time in Chester Diocese (I was ordained in Lincoln Cathedral). My first role in Chester Diocese was as Priest in Charge for 11 years in a parish that is in the top 3% of the most deprived in the country. I now serve as vicar in a suburban parish with a church primary school. I am leading the parish through a major church re-ordering project. I appreciate that decent buildings help facilitate healthy mission and ministry.

I have also been Rural Dean and served on General Synod before; both roles I found stimulating and enabled me to offer skills different than those required in local parish ministry.

What motivates me in my role as parish priest is finding new ways to serve afresh the next generation. I stand in the 'middle of the road' churchmanship but I am always open to trying new ideas. Connecting with those outside the worshipping community is hard at the best of times but post-Covid and now with financial challenges, lack of volunteers and aging congregations it is a tough call. I want to support the national church as it finds ways to meet the needs of those not yet part of our churches.

Chester Diocese and General Synod needs to be well represented by female clergy. I enjoyed serving on General Synod for 12 years during the painful and protracting process of allowing women to be ordained bishops. I support both same-sex relationships and traditional marriage (I am a member of the Mothers' Union). I am in favour of the Church of England finding a way to affirm same-sex couples providing them with the same welcome and support as we offer heterosexual couples.

I am not married nor in a same-sex relationship so I understand what it feels like to be marginalised. It is one of the things that attracts me to Jesus - he always listened to and included people on the margins of society. I have a committed friendship with my housemate and we share the care of two Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs - a breed we came across when we lived in Namibia for a year and Cape Town, South Africa for two and a half years. My housemate was working for The British Council while I was volunteering for an ecumenical contemplative prayer network.

We enjoy hiking and cycling. For instance, we cycled the length of the country from Land's End to John O'Groats (over 1,200 miles); it took us two summers to complete this: I like a challenge!

I hope you will support my election by voting for me so that I can represent the Diocese during these challenging times; thank you.