

Christina Baron

for General Synod 2021



**Nominated by Mary Masters
Seconded by Steven Pugsley**

I live in Wells and am a member of the congregation of St.Thomas's, and a former leader of the Sunday school. I have been Lay Dean of Shepton Mallet Deanery and from 2009-2015 was Lay Chair of diocesan synod. I am a member of the diocesan Board of Patronage, taking part in appointing some parish clergy.

I was elected to General Synod in 2013 and in 2017 was privileged to be elected by Synod to the Crown Nominations Commission, to take part in discerning who are called by God to be diocesan bishops.

I was previously a lecturer at the University of Bath, teaching courses on British history and modern Britain for overseas students. I have chaired two local NHS Trusts and now sit on disciplinary tribunals for the General Medical Council.

My husband, Alan, is a former churchwarden; we have three adult children and five grandchildren (with a sixth expected imminently).

Inclusive Church

I am committed to equality for everyone at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.

Please use your vote

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Dear Deanery Synod members

It has been an honour to serve as a representative of Bath and Wells on General Synod for the past eight years and I hope you will give me your support to continue.

General Synod does work which is important both for the Church and beyond, including on safeguarding, where there is still more to be done to make sure that survivors' voices are heard and that the abuses of the past can never happen again.

Synod has oversight of the Church's finances and financial priorities, decides on Church structures and organisation, and has the responsibility of voting on new forms of liturgy.

And then there is Living in Love and Faith: study materials, videos and discussion guides about human sexuality. There will be opportunities to take part locally before a General Synod debate in the next two or three years.

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Parishes and parish churches are the foundations of the Church of England. Whilst it is important to reach out to more people through new forms of worship in new places and through chaplaincy in schools, colleges, hospitals and workplaces and wherever people gather, and this work should be acknowledged and celebrated, the parish must be affirmed as the outward and visible sign of the unique mission of the Church of England: *"here for all the people of England."*

Since I've been on Synod:

I have spoken in favour of the consecration of women bishops and the banning of "conversion therapy" for gay people. Questions at Synod can be a useful way of drawing attention to an issue and I have asked Questions on topics including support for clergy spouses after marriage breakup.

I was also one of the Bath and Wells representatives who tabled a record number of Questions about the proposed sale of the Bishops' Palace – which, as we all know, was eventually prevented.

I have visited, either in person or by Zoom, almost half the deanery synods in the diocese to talk about General Synod and, if I am re-elected, would welcome invitations to come to other deanery synods.

I also arranged a visit to Synod in London by a group from Shepton Mallet Deanery and would like to encourage more groups and individuals from Bath and Wells to visit in future to see how Synod works.

Please get in touch if you want to discuss General Synod or ask any questions:

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Most important of all – you have until noon on Friday, October 8th, to vote. Please do use your vote - and I hope you will give me your first preference.

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