

Mrs Beryl Woodward

I would like to represent the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth diocese as a lay member of the General Synod. As our national church navigates a season of immense change, challenge, and opportunity, I believe lay voices are vital to the future of the Church of England, bringing the perspective of everyday life, work, and community service to the church's decision making.

I have been a committed member of the Church of England for 40 years and currently worship at St John the Baptist Church, Yaverland , Isle of Wight. Professionally, I worked as a primary school teacher for 30 years which gave me valuable experience in dealing with people, listening to diverse viewpoints and community engagement.

At my local church, I currently serve as a member of the PCC, treasurer and sacristan and PCC secretary in the past. These roles have given me an understanding of the running of a small rural church and pressures facing our local parishes on the Isle of Wight today.

If elected I would like to focus on supporting local parishes. National funding and legislation should benefit the ministry of local churches and support the hard work done by volunteers particularly in rural and smaller communities. I would like to ensure that all traditions within the Church of England are listened to, respected, and valued. I am also aware that we need to find accessible ways to share the Gospel with children, young people, and families in today's world.

I realise as a member of the Synod I will be required to listen carefully, read extensively, and debate with an open mind. I understand I need to be accountable and feedback to our Deanery Synod, always remembering the realities of local parishes.

I would be grateful for your consideration and your vote in this election.