

The Ven Canon Sally Ann Gaze

Candidate for General Synod 2021

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Proposer: Rev'd Tiffer Robinson,
Rector of Rattlesden Benefice, Rural Dean of Lavenham
(Clergy General Synod Rep from 2015-2021)

Seconder: Rev'd Canon Dave Gardner,
Director of Ministry and Mission



Background

I was born and brought up on the Norfolk-Suffolk border and my early faith was nurtured at St Andrew's church in Gorleston. After a year with the London City Mission, I studied Theology at Cambridge University before becoming a secondary school teacher in the West Midlands. 28 years ago, I married Chris and we have two children - Matthew (21) and Katie (12) who give us great joy.

I trained for ordination at Queen's College Birmingham and gained an M. Phil, researching "St Paul and Inculturation". I served two curacies in multi parish benefices in the Diocese of Worcester and the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon before moving to Norfolk to become Team Rector of the Tas Valley Team Ministry in 2002. I served on the working group which wrote the Mission Shaped Church Report and wrote "Mission-shaped and Rural," one of the books in the follow up series to the report. Alongside my Tas Valley ministry, in 2009, I became the part time Diocesan Facilitator for Fresh Expressions of Church working across Norwich Diocese. I served as a Norwich rep on General Synod from 2015-2018, stepping down because of my move to Suffolk. I am a long-serving member of the national Rural Fresh Expressions Guiding Team.

I am currently the Archdeacon for Rural Mission in our diocese, leading a nationally funded project to develop a community of small missional groups (Lightwave) and supporting rural benefices in outreach. I also love serving as a canon at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. You can find out more about my current work by watching the video at www.lightwave.org/discernfuture.

Some issues at General Synod...

PRAYER With the many and complex issues facing the Church of England, grounding our life and our decisions in prayer at every level, remains the first priority. All our actions need to flow from prayerful discernment of God's guidance.

SAFEGUARDING Change to bring love and justice to every part of the Church of England response to safeguarding and abuse will be a crucial part of Synods work in the coming quinquennium.

Some issues at General Synod cont...

ENVIRONMENT: General Synod has set a target for all parts of the church to become carbon “net zero” by 2030. I am keen that this ambition becomes facilitated by helpful accountability supportive action to safeguard God’s creation.

RURAL MATTERS: I am passionate about God’s work in the countryside, having served as a parish priest in various rural multi parish benefices for over 20 years. From environment and agriculture, addressing access and isolation, church buildings and structures, creativity and boldness is needed at a national level to grasp the opportunities to share God’s love. As the director of one of the very few rural initiatives funded by the national Strategic Development Fund, I am keen that the countryside is recognised as a crucial area in which God’s people are called to worship and witness.

CHURCH SCHOOLS The Church of England is the largest single provider of schools in England with more than 4,800 schools. As a former RE teacher and school governor for many years, I believe that the Church has a key role in helping to shape our education system. I am committed to church schools being inclusive communities where children have rich opportunities to experience Christianity in their moral and spiritual development.

INCLUSIVITY AND UNITY The Church of England is not yet a place where all parts of our society find it equally easy to participate: I would like to be part of working towards a church which is generous, loving, and welcoming - where everyone is able to participate in the membership and leadership of the church, regardless of gender, ethnicity, nationality, social class, disability, sexual orientation, age or wealth.

ENGAGING IN “LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH” I have gay friends and colleagues some of whom want a change in the current church teaching and some of whom want to maintain a traditional position. We need to cherish each other through disagreement. My own understanding of biblical teaching in this area includes that of marriage as a gift of God in creation, which is specifically for bringing a man and woman together in sexual union and lifelong commitment with singleness as an equally important and honoured path.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM Most of all, I long that people discover Jesus and His love for them and grow in knowing Him better. I want to be part of a church full of grace and love and service at every level. General Synod is place where decisions are made which can encourage the whole Church of England in proclaiming and living the good news of God’s Kingdom from caring for refugees to caring for creation. I think that the present moment is one of opportunity and challenge in our nation and I am keen to be part of the work of General Synod at this time.