

Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani

I am standing for re-election to General Synod as an experienced priest in the Diocese with a particular passion for the well-being of clergy, early ministerial training and formation, and the full inclusion of women in ministry, all of which contribute significantly to the mission of the Church.

Current role in the diocese

As **Curate Training Officer** I work alongside curates, Training Incumbents and Diocesan staff to equip new clergy for ministry and mission. It has been a privilege to work with clergy from the whole breadth of the Church of England and to share in their ministerial development.

As **Adviser for Women's Ministry** I advocate for and provide support for our ordained women. I am committed to the continuation of this role, particularly as women are currently severely under represented at senior levels within the Diocese. As Adviser I sit on the Bishop's Leadership Team and contribute to strategic decision making.



Experience

Ministry

- Ordained deacon 1998; ordained priest 1999.
- 1998-2001 – Curacy served in thriving South London Team Ministry (Southwark Diocese) which included a variety of church traditions.
- 2001-2004 – Chaplain to the Royal Academy of Music and St. Marylebone Church of England Secondary School (London Diocese).
- 2004-2011 – PTO Diocese of Peterborough. During this period I raised three children whilst living in the Vicarage where my husband is Team Rector.
- 2009-2010 – One year project at the University of Northampton helping the chaplaincy team develop a more effective multi-faith approach.
- 2011-present – Curate Training Officer
- 2012-present – Adviser for Women's Ministry
- 2013-15 – Member of General Synod

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Wider Church Experience

- Born in Iran in 1966 and raised within the Anglican Church in the Middle East, I lived through the traumatic events of the early years of the Islamic Revolution and am currently Commissary to the Bishop in Iran.
- In 1999 I was awarded a PhD from Bristol University on the role of women in the history of mission and the interfaith movement.
- Whilst out of parochial ministry I have always contributed to wider church bodies including Diocese of Iran, Governing body of SPCK, Anglican Network for Interfaith Concerns and as member of Clergy Disciplinary Panel, Archbishop's nominee.
- I have continued research interests, spoken and published in the areas of interfaith dialogue, mission studies and women's ministry.

General Synod

Over the past two years I have closely followed the complicated processes of Synod and would now welcome the opportunity to contribute even more effectively to the debates, including those on resourcing ministerial education, developing discipleship, identifying and training of senior leaders, and the ongoing simplification agenda.

I want to bring the breadth of my experience to these and other issues:

- **Theological education and formation.** Having lived in theological college when my husband was training for ministry, later trained on a course myself, and also having studied in an academic setting I am very familiar with the range of training pathways and understand the strengths and weaknesses of each.
- In contributing to Synod I always have at the front of my mind the **pastoral care and support of clergy and their families**. I commit myself to advocating for the ministerial well-being and flourishing of our clergy. Although not currently in parochial ministry I have for the whole of my life lived in clergy housing and understand well both the joys and challenges.
- **Women in Ministry.** I worked hard for and voted in favour of the 2014 proposals to include women in the episcopate and am comfortable with the five guiding principles aimed at ensuring mutual flourishing. Issues around the full inclusion of women are not yet fully addressed, however, and in our Diocese where there is currently no female member of the Bishop's senior staff I believe it is important that an ordained woman's voice is heard on General Synod.
- **The unity of the Church.** I am a product of a small persecuted part of the Anglican Church and I value the unity in diversity which the Communion represents. The Church of England will always face issues of conflict and disagreement, most recently in the area of women's ministry and human sexuality. I welcome the current process of shared conversations and commit myself to listening to the full range of Anglican perspectives in these complex areas.

Conclusion

I am explicitly asking for your first preference vote in the forthcoming election, in particular, to ensure the appropriate representation of women clergy. I will bring experience and passion especially to decisions that will shape future ministerial formation. Most importantly, however, I commit myself to working on your behalf, advocating for the hard working mission minded parochial clergy with which this diocese is blessed.

Please feel free to contact me on 01572 722108 or by email
guli.francis-dehqani@peterborough-diocese.org.uk