

GENERAL SYNOD
ELECTIONS 2015

Sarah Mowbray



St Mary The Virgin
Kettering

About myself

I was born and brought up in the Church In Wales, and from a very early age have felt God's presence in my life. I grew up with the BCP and the Welsh Prayer book, and these forged my faith, and became firm foundations on which my faith was built.

I was a member of my local Church choir from the age of seven; I was confirmed at 11 and continued my faith journey at University. I met my husband at University, and our journey of faith together has taken us from North to South, and now the Midlands.

We have two beautiful daughters, and I would like to see them grow and develop in their Christian Faith and to ensure that as adults, they feel as strongly and passionately about their faith, as I do about mine.

Parish Life

I have the task of being a 'Vicars Wife' which means that my whole life is geared towards the Parish. Although our house is our home, it is also an open house to any who come along. We show love and hospitality to those in our Parish, and make sure that those who encounter us as parents, as husband and wife or as individuals, can see the presence of Christ in all that we are and all that we do.

Although I try not to fall into the stereotype, I do love to get involved with the youngsters in our Church. I have been involved in the Sunday School for many years, and have had the privilege of leading the teaching for those preparing for Confirmation. I feel called to teach youngsters about our Faith and to

encourage them to be Evangelists, to go out into our community telling their friends about leading a Christian Life.

I have had the privilege of meeting the Diocesan Bishop, and his care of us as a Parish and as a family has been immensely valuable, and I am glad that we are under his pastoral care.

Personal Life

I met my Husband at University, and we were together for five years before we married, we celebrate 13 years of marriage this year, and have the joy of having two girls complete our family unit. Although, our family unit would not be complete without our dog Arwein.

I feel that I have much to offer the Church, I am (just) shy of 40, and can relate to the younger generation and represent them, their parents, and their children, and give them a voice in the Church.

My convictions

The Church is changing in many ways, and is brining forth new ideas that reflect modern trends. It is important that as a community of Christians, we move forward together and show respect to each other, embracing diversity, and showing pastoral care, and sensitivity to all who believe in Christ regardless of their tradition, or background.

I work for a funeral company, and over the last ten years I have seen a worrying decline in the families who wish to use the service of a Religious Celebrant. The popularity of Life Celebrants has increased dramatically. This can also be seen in Weddings and also Baptisms. There has been a dramatic decline in people using the Church for the Occasional offices. I would want to put myself forward to stand on General Synod because I am worried about this decline, and I want to feel that I have tried to do something to make the Church aware of the issue, and address how we go about making sure that the Church Of England is a clear presence in our communities, serving those who are in need.

The Future

I feel that the Church now needs to move forward after the last twenty years, and work together to make the Church somewhere that people want to go on a Sunday morning. We need to rejuvenate the love for our fellow Christians and heal the rifts that once divided, to show a united front.

I have had the privilege of serving the Governing Body of the Church in Wales in my late 20's and now I feel ready to offer myself in serving on General Synod. I feel that as a parent it is my duty and joy to teach our children about

Christ, about His message of love, about His sacrificing gift, and how they can share in that love, and go out into the world enriched by His gifts.