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Proposer: Canon Stella Vernon Hull Deanery
Seconder: Mr Paul Bolton Scarborough Deanery

I live in Scarborough, a widow with two married sons. Having the joy of sons I am truly blessed with two daughters in law and two granddaughters. Since taking early retirement I have had more time to enjoy reading, sharing time with friends and family and love to travel.

I trained at Hull Royal Infirmary as a State Registered Nurse, and spent over 40 years of my working career in the various areas of nursing. The last twenty-five years before taking early retirement I worked as Senior Nursing Sister in General Practice and as Cytology Advisor to Scarborough Primary Care Trust also in Family Planning and Sexual Health I was involved in the further educational development of Practice Nurses.

I am thankful to have been called by God to serve in the work I loved, and to have had the privilege to help and serve those in need and also to share their joys. I felt nursing was my ministry but I know that God continues to use the gifts he has give me in his church.

I have worshipped at St Mark's Newby for many years, serving as PCC secretary and Churchwarden and currently as Deanery Synod Representative and the Mission Team.

As Lay Chair of the Scarborough Deanery Synod I am very involved in the many exciting things that are happening. Churches are working together, ecumenically and with the local authorities and different partnerships, the voice of the Church is being heard and valued for the benefit of all.

I am a Trustee of Westway Open Arms a Christian Social Action centre which was born through prayer and Fresh Expressions of Church. The service of those who volunteer to those who are in great need is a joy to all. Witnessing many who did not know God come to faith is wonderful.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a member of General Synod for the last five years. To be part of shaping what happens in the future Church; to be able to meet and engage with those who have different views and concerns yet know we all share the gift that we are one Church serving God has been a privilege.

My reason for standing last time remains the same. It is important that we in the parishes and deaneries are kept informed of the decisions taken on our behalf at General Synod. I hope that I have fulfilled my role in reporting back either by written or verbal presentation.

There will be many issues debated at General Synod in the next five years, much of it legislative business but also social, environmental, finance, mission and ministry both lay and ordained local, national and international issues, faith spirituality and prayer.

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The work of the Reform and Renewal agenda for change in the Church was affirmed at General Synod in July and reports from the task groups regarding Developing Discipleship, Resourcing the Future of the Church of England, Resourcing Ministry, Simplification of Church rules and regulations, Discerning and Nurturing Senior Leaders, and Intergeneration Equity – how the financial resources are allocated by the Church Commissioners to the Diocese will continue to be debated throughout the next five years. These are exciting issues that will require careful debate and wise leadership, the outcomes will have an effect on parishes and we need to be well informed and able to contribute to the discussion for the changes to be a success in the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

The Pilling Report on Human Sexuality is also likely to be on the agenda for debate. The Christian Gospel is good news. People following all kinds of lifestyles all are generously included in the blessings of the Gospel, and are to be welcomed and nurtured by the Church but I believe that the covenant of Christian marriage is between a man and a woman and is God given. At the same time, we need to extend the love of Christ to all people and welcome warmly all who come, irrespective of their lifestyles.

One of my roles is to represent the members of Laity on the following committees. I have always tried to do my best in being your voice and keeping you informed. The interaction of the work carried out by these committees enables the Diocese to be efficient and effective in providing pastoral care and mission in the Parishes.

- ❖ Scarborough Deanery Synod (early 1990 serving as Lay Chair 2005 - present)
- ❖ East Riding Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Sub Committee (1999 – present)
- ❖ York Diocesan Synod (2004 – present)
- ❖ Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee as Vice Chair (2004 – present)
- ❖ Diocesan Property Sub Committee (2010 - present)
- ❖ Archbishops Council (2006 – present)
- ❖ National Deaneries Network (2011- present)
- ❖ Church of England Legal Aid Commission (2010 –present)

I am grateful for the insight and experience gained while serving the Church at parish, deanery, diocese and national level and hope that the knowledge gained and with God's help this will enable me to contribute wisely and encouragingly to the debates at General Synod.

I pray that we will be energised by Faith through Prayer and Scripture, in loving service to one another and caring for creation, listening and seeking God's Will for His Church.

If elected I would bring prayer, commitment and enthusiasm, also the experience of having served on Synod endeavouring to do my best to be your voice at Synod and keep you informed.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to represent the Laity of the Diocese of York on the General Synod for a further 5 years and ask for your support in voting for me.

Yours in Christ
Ros Brewer