

## The Revd Liz Hassall

In these addresses, it seems to be the tradition to say something about what kind of Anglican or Christian you are. As a child, growing up on the campus at Keele University, I was taken most often to the University chapel. Here, worship was eclectic and included many denominations. Both the choral music and the Christian Union had a deep impact on my spirituality and faith. I chose to be confirmed Anglican and I



see the breadth of Anglican worship and belief as one of the greatest strengths of the Church of England, as well as giving us our greatest challenges. I arrived in York in my early twenties and worked in the city centre for a couple of years until hearing a call to priesthood whilst on a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne. Ordination took me to train at Trinity College, Bristol, followed by curacy at the Headland Benefice on Flamborough Head. That multi-parish rural curacy was good preparation for my next post as Rector of the Byland Churches (Coxwold with Husthwaite and Crayke with Brandsby and Yearsley), where I served from 2013 to 2020, also being Area Dean of Easingwold from 2014-2019. In 2020, I was rather surprised to discern a calling to move into York City Centre but it has been a privilege to begin ministry here and I look forward to the coming years.

There are various reasons why I am standing for general synod at this election. On a practical note, I bring experience of synod at deanery and diocesan level (2015 to 2020 and from 2021). I also expect to have at least another 25 years in ministry, so I will be contributing with a view to the longer term.

In the next few years, we know some of the challenges that will face General Synod. We also have some direction from Archbishop Stephen that we should be a church that is simpler, humbler and bolder. We are undoubtedly in a time of transition, exacerbated by the pandemic. We have been tested by worship needing to be moved online and have discovered new ways that faith can be nurtured and ministry offered. General Synod will need to address the consequences of all of this. I hope to strike a balance between honouring the old ways and taking advantage of our sudden realisation that technology can be used even by churches who don't have techno-experts at hand. Theology and practice should be in harmony – I hope to contribute to making it so.

I wholeheartedly welcome the decision for the Church of England to become carbon-neutral by 2030 but we will need considerably more investment and support in order to make this happen, especially for small churches with few financial resources. I intend to advocate for changes to make it easier for churches to significantly reduce their carbon footprint and live out the calling to care for God's creation.

