

Self Nomination to the Church of England General Synod

Fiona Murray

I am a retired civil servant, divorced with two grown up children and 2 grandsons.

I have been on the electoral roll of St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York, since 2010.

Church engagement: Member of the Church Choir, PCC, HR committee, co-ordinator of Pret a Manger surplus food distribution, Volunteer for Children's Holiday Club, Eco Church Group and Deanery Synod.

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Rev Richard Carew, can vouch for my attendance and participation in Communion.

I have three main interests in the church and I hope that I could have some influence on the Church of England in these areas.

Safe Guarding

- The C of E has come under a lot of criticism over the way it has handled a variety safe guarding issues and it's reluctance to approve any outside scrutiny. I'd like to see this reviewed and encourage more transparency. Being more transparent will gain trust.

Community Outreach

- This is something that the Deanery Synod are investigating under their current "No one left behind" project tackling poverty. At St Edwards I am the co-ordinator for the distribution of surplus food from Pret a Manger, which not only benefits those who are in need but also provides an opportunity for people to come together weekly and in the winter for some to shelter from the cold.

- I'm also preparing to take a lead in "Friday Lunches" in the new year. This is a twice monthly event, where 2 course lunches are provided at a minimal cost of £7, to whoever in the community wishes to come. Currently the main clientele are elderly, people many of whom live alone and this is the only opportunity they have to eat in company. It also offers a time for socialising. It is open to all and often some of the non-church groups who meet at St Eds join in. It is open to everyone and we would like to encourage more to join us.
- Loneliness is an issue that affects the whole country and we need to be more inclusive of people of all faiths and none.
- The other day I witnessed a rough sleeper coming into the St Edward's community hall, a regular I believe, he has a dog, and that seemed to be the only thing people were interested in and commented on, they asked his name, "Atlas" but nobody, asked who he was or what his name is. Was this out of embarrassment or not caring, or because people are more interested in animals than humans? A very British trait, which we need to be aware of.

Environment

- I am a member of the Eco Church Group. St Edwards has recently been awarded a Bronze medal for our progress in making us an eco-friendly church. Prior to my retirement I also was member of my Agency's Climate and Environment Action Group. I have a keen interest in conserving energy, recycling anything that can be sustainably recycled and saving water. It is very important to me and I want to encourage more people everywhere to be more climate conscious. It is very difficult and expensive. It involves personal sacrifice, but that isn't a reason not to persist. It is important for the C of E to take this matter seriously, and I would like to be a part of that.
- The Pret a Manger distribution of food has the advantage that it also prevents food waste.