

The Reverend Lis (Elisabeth) Goddard
Vicar of St James the Less Westminster

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Proposed by: The Revd. Tim Stilwell – St Dionis, Parsons Green

Seconded by: The Revd Tamsin Merchant – St Mary's, Hornsey Rise

- On General Synod since September 2020
- Member of London Diocesan Synod
- St Margaret's Deanery and on Deanery Standing Committee
- Bishop's Assessor for Ordinands and MDR reviewer
- Member of the planning group for the London National Estates Churches Conference 2019 and 2020
- Chair of The Junia Network (formally AWESOME – a network for ordained Anglican women Evangelicals)
- Member of Archbishop of Canterbury's Transformations Steering Group (TSG) and TRIG (The House of Bishops' Transformations Research and Implementation Group)
- Co-Chair, Trustee and Council Member of CEEC (Church of England Evangelical Council)



If you re-elect me to represent London Diocese on General Synod, I will bring wide ranging experience which I believe will help me to contribute effectively to the challenges which will face this Synod. The child of an East London vicarage, I love the Church of England. I am passionate about seeing people come to Jesus and grow in their faith, and this will inform all that I do and say.

In summary I am committed to:

Developing a workable and coherent vision and strategy for the church, both local and national, in the 21st Century

A Church which is younger and more diverse

Making space for the most vulnerable within our churches and our structures

Making good upon our 2030 commitment to be carbon-neutral as a church

Reform of the CDM and development of appropriate policies to protect clergy as well as laity from bullying and harassment

Theological education and formation – with particular concern for women

The Living in Love and Faith process

In more detail this means:

Developing a workable and coherent vision and strategy for the church, both local and national. As the Synod is called to engage with the work led by the Archbishop of York, there is a need for clarity in thinking, being aware of what the long-term consequences might be of decisions made now. I bring a deep commitment to our parochial heritage, knowing that there are whole swathes of our country and cities which we won't reach if we abandon this significant gift. Coupled with that I have a willingness and excitement to see new expressions or modes of outreach and church developed to reach those who are deeply unchurched, for whom community does not operate upon traditional lines.

It is vital if we are to have a long-term future that we engage creatively with the call to become **a church which is younger and more diverse**. I have had the privilege of establishing a detached youth trust working across Pimlico, in partnership with other church leaders, reaching out to the most vulnerable young people on the edges of our community. We need to be looking creatively at how we connect with those who are most at risk in our communities with hope and serving the most vulnerable. I believe passionately that we are to be a church where all are called and all are used, whatever their background, race, colour or education. I love leading a multi-ethnic congregation where everyone finds a place and where we seek to develop a vision together of how we are called to discipleship in every part of our lives. I am therefore deeply committed to the work of 'Setting God's People

Free' but also, as a theological educator, I'm very aware of the importance of solid training and formation for those in leadership. I think that we have a challenge to release our clergy from all that binds them and stops them from doing what they are trained to do. I think that resources should be put in so that clergy can be set free to be a transforming, releasing factor for the laity and the mission of God in this country.

Making space for the most vulnerable within our churches and our structures is a key concern for me. Of particular importance is ensuring the proper funding and resourcing of estates ministry, acknowledging that the weakest are the ones most often forgotten by those with the power and the money. This will mean challenging the allocation of central resources primarily to already resource-rich Resource Churches who often look to their own rather than resourcing the wider church. Alongside this I have a real passion for those with serious mental health conditions, ministering in a church with a high level of mental-ill health among the congregation, fringe and parish. I anticipate contributing on debates around how we respond to the rise in serious mental ill-health through the pandemic.

Making good upon our 2030 commitment to be carbon-neutral as a church. The last Synod made this pledge and it will be vital that the coming Synod holds to it. This will mean facing the challenges of our historic buildings head on and potentially leading the way in radical decisions on the use of carbon-neutral technologies on heritage sites. As the vicar of a grade 1-listed church in central London where we have already taken significant steps to being carbon-neutral and are working hard to find new ways to address this challenge, I believe that I will have much to contribute to this debate.

Reform of the CDM and development of appropriate policies to protect clergy as well as laity from bullying and harassment. It is no secret that the Clergy Discipline Measure is not fit for purpose and the Synod has started the process of reform which will be completed in this coming Quinquennium. As serious as this issue, is the impact of badly handled non-CDM complaints upon clergy, as we have tragically seen recently in London Diocese. Alongside this, we have totally inadequate policies and procedures to deal with the significant issue of the bullying and harassment of clergy. 'Dignity at Work' the standard policy document used throughout the C of E is seriously outdated. In the July Synod I asked a question around this area, and I commit to work for adequate provision for the protection of both clergy and laity, building on the work I have been doing on this through the Transformations Steering Group, aware that, according to Unite, significantly more clergywomen than men are subject to bullying within the workplace.

Theological education and formation: I have been a theological educator, particularly in ministerial formation, including mission and spirituality. This continues to be an important interest for me, and I would expect to engage in any debate around the education and formation of ordinands. I am still engaged mentoring fellow clergy and ordinands. I have led through my work with Junia and TSG on developing Young Female Vocations events and pushing for a National Family Friendly Policy.

As someone who holds the traditional view on human sexuality, I am committed to **the Living in Love and Faith Process**. I hope that through these discussions we will be able to learn more about each other and find an honest way forward which enables all of us to flourish and God's mission to go forward in England in a way that honours Him. I look forward to participating in this important discernment process within General Synod if re-elected.

I believe that I still have a lot to bring to General Synod and have so far enjoyed my experience of representing London Diocese there. I am committed to serving all the electorate and to being accountable.

I therefore ask that you put me first, or high up in the ballot.

Thank you.



2010- Vicar, St James the Less, Pimlico

2009-10 Assistant Minister and consultant on Strategy and Leadership structures St Mary's, Stoke Bishop

2004-8 Tutor in Ministerial Formation, Wycliffe Hall and Assistant Minister, responsible for vision, strategy and pastoral care, St Andrew's, North Oxford

1999-2004: Chaplain, Jesus College, Oxford

1996-9 Curate St Mary's, Cogges; St James, South Leigh and led Blake Church Plant