

Caroline Jackson - General Synod Election Address

Nominated by: Mike Dark, St Luke's West Holloway
Seconded by: David Wilson, St George's Tufnell Park

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About me

- ◆ Place of Worship: St Luke's, West Holloway
- ◆ Lifelong Anglican, grew up attending a village church, and have since worshipped in a variety of evangelical and liberal churches, both large and small
- ◆ Married to Anjit, with 2 sons aged 17 and 13
- ◆ Civil Servant in the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government
- ◆ Previously worked as a Women's Refuge Manager, supporting women and children fleeing domestic violence and abuse
- ◆ Qualified book-keeper
- ◆ 2x 3-year terms church Treasurer experience
- ◆ I host a regular home discussion group on faith topics (now online of course)
- ◆ Interested in Ignatian spirituality, have attended several Ignatian retreats and organised a Week of Guided Prayer in Lent 2018

Why am I standing?

I have been lucky enough to find local churches which have been places of safety, where I have felt welcomed, loved and cared for just as I am, without judgement. This has been a healing and transforming experience, and I want to work towards a church nationally where every person can know that they are loved by God just as they are.

I would like to see an inclusive church which attracts worshippers and grows leaders from all parts of the community, with opportunities to serve in all roles at all levels, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, sexuality, social class, or background.

I would like to see the church demonstrate its relevance and show national leadership through its actions on key issues facing our society. It was very encouraging to see the appointment of a Bishop for Housing, and I would like to see the church take similar steps in other areas, such as the crisis in mental health facing our young people and the worrying rise in domestic abuse following this pandemic. I want to see the church act with even more urgency on dangerous climate change and environmental destruction. The ambition to reach Net Zero by 2030 is welcome, but unfortunately even 9 more years may be too late. The church must also set its own house straight on issues such as Black Lives Matter, properly funding necessary work on racial justice.

What can I offer?

A lifelong Anglican and long-standing London resident, with support from 2 parishes, I will raise the issues facing this area. I am good at listening to diverse views and finding common ground. I can combine practical experience in supporting vulnerable people, with an ability to use data and evidence to make effective policy.

In my job as a civil servant, I regularly weigh up evidence, talk to a range of partners, and develop options to tackle difficult national problems. I enjoy discussing ideas with others, and finding common ground. As a qualified book-keeper and experienced church treasurer, I can understand and interrogate financial information. These skills will all be invaluable and help me contribute to positive ways forward for the church.

I have previously worked with vulnerable individuals as a support worker in homeless hostels. Then, as a Women's Refuge Manager, I supported women and children escaping domestic violence and abuse. I will bring my experience working with some of the most vulnerable in society to the Synod.

I live in a very diverse but unequal part of Islington, with wealth and poverty often side by side. Domestic abuse, loneliness and mental ill-health have been made worse by the pandemic. I have support from Deanery Synod Reps across two local parishes, and want to bring the concerns facing North London to General Synod.

For an inclusive London voice on General Synod, please give your first preference vote to Caroline Jackson