

**General Synod Election 2026
Election of Lay Representatives
for the Diocese of London**

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SARAH FINCH - an active lay member of General Synod, committed to seeing the word of God, the Bible, guide our decisions.

Dear Elector,

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I invite you to give me your first preference vote in this election.

I care passionately about the future of the Church of England. With its presence in every community in the country, and on the national stage, it has the potential to be used by God to transform our society, by communicating the good news of new life in Jesus Christ, and making this relevant to everyone.

Already, there are signs of a spiritual awakening across our multi-cultural country: members of Gen. Z are turning away from materialism and seeking God. Our local churches must be ready to welcome and disciple them. The General Synod, at a national level, needs to be ready to support our parishes in their ministry.

HOPES FOR GENERAL SYNOD'S FUTURE

If General Synod is to help the Church of England to flourish at national and parish level, it must be guided by the word of God, the Bible, in all its decisions. This will mean:

- guarding the position of marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman, and the basis for a strong and cohesive society
- protecting children, through encouraging stable family life, and dealing with damaging sex-ed materials in schools
- encouraging godly, strong and gifted candidates for ordination
- supporting theological training that is well grounded in Scripture

WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER

Experience in General Synod:

- member of the House of Laity since the year 2000
- since then I have made speeches on a wide variety of topics
- been an elected member of the Appointments Committee since 2005
- been an appointed member of the Liturgical Commission for 5 years
- put forward a successful Private Member's Motion against assisted suicide

As the Church of England continues to grapple with complex and controversial issues, I know how imperative it is, within Synod, to listen carefully and with respect to those with whom one might disagree. Contributions to debate need to be constructive and eirenic.

Experience generally (past and present)

- freelance editor of non-fiction books
- trustee of the Bible Society
- member of the Church of England Evangelical Council
- school governor of a Church of England primary school
- General Synod representative on the Council of Oak Hill Theological College, and now on the Council of Wycliffe Hall Theological College
- trustee of The Latimer Trust, a Christian publishing house
- member of the Church Buildings Council

As an orthodox member of the Church of England, I uphold the Church's formularies, the Book of Common Prayer, the Thirty-nine Articles and the Ordinal.

BACKGROUND

- brought up as an Anglo-Catholic
- studied at Durham (French and Russian) and Oxford (History of Art) Universities
- my late husband, Stephen, shared my Christian commitment, and was very involved in parish, Deanery and Diocesan life
- 2 married daughters, both active with their husbands in their local churches, and 2 grandchildren
- at eighty-one, my health is very good – helped by a weekly session with a personal trainer

As a linguist and an editor, I am very interested in the use of words, which leads to a particular interest in liturgy. If I am re-elected, I hope to put forward a Private Member's Motion with the purpose of correcting something that has been wrong with the Church of England's liturgy for far too long.

If you would like to strengthen the biblical voice in General Synod, please consider giving me your first preference vote. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss something. And please join me in praying that God's will may be done in these elections.

In Christ's service, yours sincerely,

Sarah Finch

Date of birth: March 1945

London church: St Helen, Bishopsgate

Proposed by Mr Clive Scowen, Seconded by Miss Susannah Trafford