

General Synod 2015

~ Angela Scott ~



Born in 1950, I am standing to serve on General Synod for a third time. I have been married to Christopher for over 42 years and we have two sons and a daughter who have provided us with 3 in-laws and 5 grandchildren. We have lived in Chislehurst all our married life and have always attended Christ Church Chislehurst (CCC).

I trained as a teacher and taught locally until our family arrived and, apart from a spell on the Bromley supply teaching list, I have raised our family and worked voluntarily in the local and wider church context. My other interests include narrow boats, reading, choral singing, photography, walking, patchwork, writing poetry, travelling, theatre, National Trust and entertaining.

At CCC I have led youth groups, ministry among women, and have served on the PCC for many years, and have been the church administrator from 1992 to 1999. In 2000 I was authorised as **Pastoral Assistant (PA)** to CCC and undertook a Christian Counselling Training Course. I have overseen the work among the older retired and currently lead a Life Group and have recently been involved in starting a Dementia Café. I take home communion, services in a local care home, am part of the prayer walking, visiting and catering teams and am a member of the staff team. I am also the safeguarding officer for vulnerable adults at CCC, and electoral roll secretary, so my admin skills are still being used!

Much of my ministry has been wider than the local church. I was elected to **Bromley Deanery Synod**, serving as lay-chair for six years (recently taking on that role again). I was elected to **Diocesan Synod** over 25 years ago and served as Diocesan Lay-chair for nine and I am on **Bishop's Council**. I chaired the **Vacancy-in-See** committee and was subsequently elected to the **Crown Nominations Committee** when selecting Bishop James. I was also a member of the **Ministry & Training committee** for a number of years before the new Diocesan Formation & Ministry Department was formed.

I have studied theology and graduated with an **MTh** in 2010. I have been both a tutor for what was the Diocesan Developing Ministries Programme for lay training and recently served as the first Internal Nominee regulating the training for **Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM)**. I have just been selected to transfer my PA authorisation to LLM and this will be of some significance if I am re-elected to General Synod. With the new national 'Simplification' and 'Reform and Renewal' agendas, the development of Lay-Ministry will have a higher profile than before. As an LLM myself I may have greater influence in these debates.

In 2000, and again in 2010, I was elected to **General Synod**. I have served on General Synod as we have debated Women Bishops and I voted in favour and also for the provision made for those unable to accept their authority. I am unable to reconcile gay marriage theologically but accept that civil partnership gives greater security to same sex partners, though I question whether they should be in Christian leadership and can find little in Scripture to support their claims. I am what people term an 'open' evangelical and am a member of the Evangelical Group at General Synod (EGGS). I have spoken in debates, most recently in encouraging the development of LLM nationally, extended funeral liturgy and safeguarding.

If re-elected I will continue to take an active part in attending and speaking as a representative of the local churches in the Rochester Diocese.

Angela Scott
a@5scotts.freeserve.co.uk