

CORINNE STEFANOWICZ

House of Laity Candidate for Peterborough Diocese



A BIT ABOUT ME

I live in Kettering with my husband Will and our little elderly cat called Tizzy. I work for the Diocese of Peterborough as Parish Support Worker for Children and Youth. I am 28 and have worshipped in the Church of England all my life, first in an Anglo-Catholic parish in Rutland and, for the past fourteen years, in a charismatic evangelical church in Kettering. I have served across all ages in church life, and have been part of sung worship leadership, preaching, leading a Bible Study, PCC, Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod. I was also a ministry intern and hold a first-class degree in Theology and Worship.

THE LOCAL PARISH

I think the parish remains one of the Church of England's greatest strengths. Through my work with churches across our diocese, I see first-hand the commitment of clergy, volunteers, PCC members and church leaders who faithfully serve their communities week after week. I want to bring their experiences, challenges and hopes into the conversations and decisions of General Synod.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

My professional life is dedicated to supporting churches in their ministry with children, young people and families. In my late twenties, I also belong to a generation that can sometimes feel conspicuously absent from parish life. Young people are not just the future of the Church; they are an essential part of its present. I want to champion their voices within the life of the Church and help local churches support them to flourish in faith. As part of my role, and through time spent working in schools, I care deeply about safeguarding and support the Church's continuing work to strengthen safeguarding and independent oversight.

INCLUSION & BELONGING

The example of Jesus sits at the heart of my faith. Again and again, we see Jesus reaching out to people on the margins, welcoming those who were excluded and challenging those who drew boundaries around God's love. As Paul writes, we are 'all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28). I believe that every person is made in the image of God and is worthy of dignity, welcome and belonging, regardless of disability, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, neurodiversity, economic background or sexuality. I support equality and belonging at every level of Church life, and I will continue to advocate for the full inclusion and flourishing of LGBT+ people in our churches, leadership and decision-making.

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HOPE FOR THE CHURCH

I love the Church of England and believe passionately in its future. Across our diocese I see evidence every day that God is still at work: in local churches, in young people, in volunteers, in worshipping communities, in acts of service and generosity. I believe the Church of England is at its best when it reflects the unconditional love and welcome of Jesus. Yet we know the Church has not always reflected that love as it should. Among my own friends and family are people who have turned away from faith because they could not reconcile the message of God's love with experiences of exclusion, abuse, judgement and rejection within the Church. If elected, I want to use my voice to help shape a Church of England where more people can encounter the amazing love of God without conditions.

WORKING TOGETHER

ACROSS OUR DIFFERENCES

The Church of England encompasses many traditions, perspectives and convictions. I hold strong views, but I also believe we serve the same Lord. Our shared faith is far greater than the issues that divide us, and our common mission matters deeply. I am committed to listening well, speaking graciously and working constructively with those who disagree with me. I want to help build a Church that remains united even when it is not uniform.

CARING FOR CREATION

I believe caring for creation is an essential part of Christian discipleship. I want to see the Church continue responding positively and practically to the climate crisis, supporting parishes as they care for creation and ensuring our environmental commitments lead to meaningful action for future generations and communities.

WHAT WOULD I BRING TO GENERAL SYNOD?

- Professional experience supporting churches across Peterborough Diocese in ministry with children, young people and families.
- Strong theological and safeguarding training alongside practical experience of parish, deanery and diocesan governance and ministry.
- A younger voice, bringing the perspective of those too often missing from Church decision-making.
- Experience of engaging with schools, communities as well as those who feel disconnected from church life.
- Confidence as a listener, theologian and public speaker, committed to seeking unity even where there is disagreement.

I HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY

Brian Bell, St John's & St Luke's,
Peterborough Deanery.

AND SECONDED BY

Ann Hussey, All Saints,
Kettering Deanery.