

Vicky Brett

Standing for re-election to the House of Laity

Proposed by Dr Hilary Dawson ~ Retired Local Gvt, Deanery & Diocesan Synod, Peterborough

Seconded by Monty Lynds ~ Lay Reader, Lay Pioneer, Deanery Synod, Towcester

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EVERY

542

~300

ACTIVE

session attended papers read debates attended Speeches, questions, amendments & led worship

I also attend many fringe meetings to hear wider perspectives before making decisions.

Rooted in parish life

General Synod makes national decisions, but those decisions ultimately land in local churches. National Church policies have to work in real parishes.

I worship at St Mary's Church, Peterborough, where I serve as PCC Secretary, keeping me involved with governance, finance, buildings, safeguarding, mission, volunteers and community engagement.

For the past three years I have worked night shifts for NHS 111. This gives me flexibility for church, Synod and community work, while enabling me to care for my disabled husband, who often accompanies me to Synod and enthusiastically follows the proceedings!

A Pioneering Spirit

I am a do-er with a pioneering spirit. As a **Lay Pioneer**, I enjoy finding new ways of doing church, strengthening communities and turning ideas into sustainable projects.



Commissioned as a Lay Pioneer in 2018

That has included founding Inclusive Church Peterborough, helping develop LGBT+ community groups, supporting a Community Fridge, Warm Hubs, Family Fun Days, mental health training days, outreach cafes, online services etc. **I bring the same approach to Synod: listen, identify needs, bring people together and turn ideas into action.**

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." ~ 1 John 3:18

Mission, growth & public witness

I want a **living, faithful and growing Church** that matters to its community: a place where people encounter God and grow in faith, but also find friendship, compassion, practical help and belonging.

With clergy increasingly stretched, we must recognise and release the gifts of lay people. Churches thrive when clergy and laity work together and collaborate across denominations and with community organisations.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit." ~ 1 Corinthians 12:4

As St Mary's representative on **Churches Together in Central Peterborough**, I organise the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness, bringing together Christians from **over 40 churches** in a public expression of our shared faith.



Peterborough Good Friday Walk of Witness

It has been a privilege to represent you for the past five years. I would be honoured to have your first-place vote and the opportunity to serve again.

Worldwide Church & creation care

Before joining NHS 111, I spent twenty years building and running an international software engineering business. I also spent seven years working in partnership with **YWAM in Madagascar**, supporting community enterprises and projects in education, health, agriculture and renewable energy.

That experience gave me a lasting commitment to the worldwide Church and to the connections between mission, poverty, sustainable development and care for creation - all relevant to General Synod.



Rainwater harvesting on a Bush Clinic in Madagascar

Creation care was a priority when I stood in 2021. Since then I have helped St Mary's achieve the **A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award**, and we are now going for **Gold**, with our renewable energy project.

National Net Zero ambitions only become reality when local churches have the practical knowledge, resources and funding to deliver them.

A Church for everyone

I continue to believe passionately in a **Church for everyone**, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic background, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.

We are all made in God's image and invited to Christ's table.

I support women's ministry and equality for LGBT+ Christians at every level of the Church, including equal marriage, while recognising that faithful Christians hold different theological convictions.

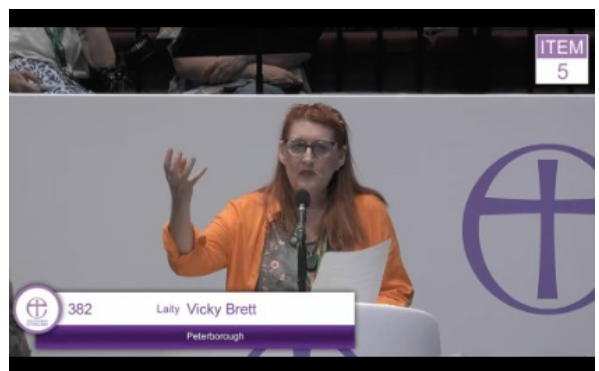
I have built genuine friendships across Synod with people whose theology differs profoundly from mine. We listen, challenge and sometimes change our understanding. **I want a Church where we can disagree without treating each other as enemies.**

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you." ~ Romans 15:7

Five years of experience

I jumped into Synod from the start, asking questions, proposing amendments, and speaking in debates on **safeguarding, social care, Net Zero, neurodiversity, inclusion and Church governance**. Five years on, I bring substantial experience of using Synod's motions, amendments, questions, procedures and legislation effectively. If re-elected, I can bring that experience from day one.

Following Bishop Donald Allister's retirement, I was **one of seven people - and the only woman** - on the Vacancy in See Committee producing the Statement of Needs describing Peterborough Diocese and what we needed from our next bishop, as part of the process leading to the appointment of Bishop Debbie Sellin.



Neurodiversity Speech at General Synod

Representing you

When people across the diocese contact me, I respond and take their concerns seriously. But representation does not mean simply voting as I am asked. There is often much more to an issue than an inflammatory newspaper headline.

I will research thoroughly, listen to all sides, consider the consequences, think and pray, and then vote and speak for what I believe is right.

Looking to the future

The Church has a vital place in the generations ahead, but old ways of doing church will not always work. We need the courage to **pioneer new ways of sharing the Gospel**, building Christian community and serving our neighbours, while remaining faithful to Christ.

In an increasingly technological, individualised and divided world, the Church can offer belonging, hope, meaning and community; affirm the value of every person as made in God's image; speak for justice; care for creation; and model reconciliation across difference. Above all, we must **proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation** - not simply preserving an institution, but being a living Christian presence in every community.