

Claire Bateman

A Passion for Jesus. Practical experience. Ready to serve.

I am in my mid-30s, married to Tim, a Vicar, and mum to three children aged 5, 6 and 9. We live in Farnborough, and I would be delighted to serve the Diocese of Guildford in the House of Laity at General Synod.



Why am I standing?

I'm standing because I love Jesus, I love the Church, and I believe the Church of England has an exciting future. Over the last decade I have worshipped and served in three very different churches: a city-centre church, an inner-city estate church and now a parish church in Farnborough. I am currently Operations Manager for SOMA, an Anglican mission agency, and previously worked as the Health and Safety Manager for a local authority. I would bring to Synod the perspective of someone who has experienced different church contexts alongside the practical skills of a professional problem-solver: someone used to managing risk and getting things done well. I am curious, practical and willing to challenge. I listen carefully and am happy to change my mind when there is a better answer.

My three priorities

1. Jesus: I want to see more people meet Jesus, follow Jesus and be transformed by Jesus.

I became a Christian in my late teens, and Jesus has been moulding, refining and challenging me ever since — with plenty more work still to do! I want to see the Church of England confident in the gospel and equipped to share it. We need churches that are not afraid to invite people in, go out to their communities and make lifelong disciples. As a mum in my 30's, I would bring particular experience of reaching and discipling younger adults and families.

2. People: Our buildings, people and resources give us an extraordinary opportunity to be a force for good — and to introduce people to Jesus along the way.

Having lived in and served in inner-city Birmingham, I have seen the difference a church can make when it becomes a genuine hub of its community. I was involved in setting up a new parent group during COVID, ran a CAP Job Club and served in a community café. These weren't simply programmes; they were opportunities to build relationships, serve people and share the love of Jesus. I want to encourage churches to look outward: to listen to their communities, respond to real needs and build relationships beyond the Sunday congregation.

3. Under 18's: If we want a flourishing Church, we need to invest in children and young people.

I want to see churches full of children and young people who are excited about Jesus, growing in faith and discovering the gifts God has given them. Having served in children's and youth ministry, I know both the joys and the practical realities. Churches need to be equipped and resourced to disciple young people well — and young people need to be given opportunities to step out in their faith, serve and lead.

Why vote for me?

I would bring energy, practical experience and a willingness to listen. I will ask good questions, engage constructively, work hard and seek to keep the local church and the mission of Jesus at the heart of everything I do.

Please consider giving me your first-choice vote for the House of Laity.