

Judy Young

Candidate for House of Laity, Guildford Diocese

Nominated by: Andrew French, Leatherhead Deanery
Gill Beckwith, Godalming Deanery & Diocesan Synod



About Me

I am a member of St Martin's, where I am an occasional preacher, lead a monthly Bible study, serve on the PCC and represent the parish on the Leatherhead Deanery Synod. I care deeply about the Church being a cornerstone of its community and have a heart for outreach.

Professionally, I have worked as a stage manager for theatre, opera and large-scale public events, bridging the gap between creative vision and delivery. I am good at understanding what people need, seeing the bigger picture, bringing people together and finding practical ways to make things happen.

I have been married to Toby for 28 years. We met as undergraduates at Edinburgh University, where I studied Chemical Engineering, before I went on to RADA and a career in technical theatre. We have two young adult children, and enjoy walking alongside them as they find their way in life, seeing at first hand some of the challenges facing younger generations today.

My Passion

I believe the local church is called to be woven into the heart of its community. At St Martin's, I help with a weekly music dementia group, initiate outreach events such as pancake parties and pub carols, and have helped establish Wild Church, a seasonal outdoor all ages activity.

I also run a walking group of around 80 people, most of whom are not regular churchgoers. We visit a church on our route each time (many of your churches will have hosted us - thank you!) and I have seen the quiet power of people walking alongside one another, building friendships and finding community. It can open doors.

Following Jesus has taught me to be attentive to the people God puts in our path, particularly in direct and often unexpected encounters. When a hotel for asylum seekers opened next door to our church, I had the privilege of getting to know some of those staying there and gaining a deeper appreciation of the obstacles and barriers many people face in life.

Alongside my church work, I am a trustee of a charitable trust supporting charities that seek to change communities and restore broken lives through education, training and personal development. I visit charities across the UK, both faith-based and secular, and am continually inspired by people working tirelessly to create opportunities for those in need.

These experiences have given me a strong sense of the opportunities and challenges facing the Church on the ground. I would bring that perspective to Synod: listening to our parishes and communities, learning from one another, and helping us to keep our focus on serving our neighbours, sharing the good news and the hope we have in Christ.



My Faith Journey

My faith was formed in the Presbyterian tradition, growing up in Scotland and continuing as a young adult in London. I also spent time in the USA and, since moving to Surrey nearly 20 years ago, have been part of a wide range of Anglican churches, both evangelical and more traditionally liturgical.

St Martin's is now my church home. I was received into the Anglican Communion at Guildford Cathedral in a wonderful service led by Bishop Andrew. I have since completed the Foundations in Ministry programme and am developing my role as a Lay Associate Minister.

Across these different churches and traditions, Presbyterian and Anglican, Scottish, American and English, my faith has grown through serving in many ways, from Sunday School and refreshments to formal leadership. Through it all, knowing Jesus has remained central: through Scripture, prayer and worship, seeking to follow him faithfully.

I love the rhythm of the liturgical year and the framework of the lectionary, whilst also enjoying learning from other churches and traditions. I pursue further learning through programmes and events offered in our own diocese and at Sarum College, striving to deepen my own faith and understanding so that I can remain open, relevant and equipped to engage with others and reach those who do not yet know what the Church has to offer.

My Commitment to Synod

At a time when many parishes face changing patterns of attendance, financial pressures and difficult questions about sustainability, I believe passionately in finding ways for parish churches and ordained clergy to remain a vital presence in our communities.

My professional life has involved turning shared ideas into practical action. I enjoy working collaboratively, listening to different perspectives and finding common ground. I would bring to Synod an understanding of the realities facing our churches, alongside a commitment to build trust and enable healthy, thriving local churches.

I stand as part of the Together campaign and am deeply committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and in all roles within the Church. On Synod, I would seek to listen to voices that are sometimes overlooked, contribute thoughtfully to difficult conversations and help build a Church where everyone fully belongs.

If you share my hope for a Church of England that is present in every community, welcoming to everyone and confident in its calling, I'd be grateful for your vote.

You can also contact me by email: iamjudyyoung@gmail.com

