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Church for Everyone!



Church from the Bottom Up!



Church for the Common Good!

Let's work together to make the Church of England a community with depth and breadth - which **welcomes** everyone, **listens** to its people and **serves God** in a broken World!

Nominated by **Revd Catherine Butt**, Vicar of St Frideswide's Church, Water Eaton, and **Canon John Robertson**, Director of Ecumenical Mission, MK Mission Partnership

My Experience: I was born and baptised in Slough, and grew up in Aylesbury and rural North Bucks. I studied theology in Aberdeen and Cambridge. I also spent two years with USPG in their Root Group scheme. I have been Area Dean of Milton Keynes for fifteen years which has given me a good sense of how the structures and processes of the Church of England can both help and hinder mission and local church life. I have strong commitment to collaborative leadership and social justice demonstrated by my involvement in national projects and campaigns.

I have been a member of the Steering Group of the **National Deaneries Network** since 2008. We have organised a series of online *Deanery Briefings* during the pandemic, and engaged with General Synod on issues including the term limits for lay people.

I have also served as the co-chair of the UK Council for **Citizens UK** and was involved in national campaigns including the *Real Living Wage*, and *Refugees Welcome*. I helped build a partnership between Citizens UK and the **Greenbelt Festival**.

The General Synod Agenda:

- 1. Church for Everyone:** I believe that we should be a church that positively welcomes and includes everyone, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. I have signed the *Inclusive Church* declaration and believe that it is important to act on the basis of these beliefs. We should adopt the recommendations of the anti-racism taskforce and engage with the feedback from *the Living in Love and Faith* process.
- 2. Church from the Bottom Up:** We are at risk of sliding into a culture of managerialism and top-down thinking. We are losing our identity as Anglicans with our long commitment to the parish system, congregational life and mutual support. My work with *Citizens UK* has demonstrated the value of deep listening, shared power, and careful decision-making. I think the Church of England needs to think of itself as a community, not as a business. I believe that our processes should become more bottom up and less hierarchical.
- 3. Church for the Common Good:** As a church, we need to remember that we are called to serve Christ in the World, rather than preserve ourselves as an institution. Our agenda should reflect this call. We should address the real issues of our time, including climate change, the well-being of young people, racial justice, refugee resettlement and inequality. We can make a difference, and should prioritise the needs of others.

The Church of England is a broad church, called to serve our nation as disciples of Christ. We have a range of different beliefs and practices, but we must try to work together, build positive relationships, listen to those around us, and act as one. I want to serve on General Synod so I can help the Church reflect this call more faithfully in the years to come.