

## **CHANTAL MASON – ELECTION FOR GENERAL SYNOD**

I'm standing for General Synod for the first time. I've been ordained for 9 years and serve as Lazenby Chaplain at Exeter University. I also serve on Diocesan Synod.



### **Background**

I grew up in Peterborough and moved to Devon at 18 to be part of the Lee Abbey community in Lynton in my gap year, before reading Theology at Exeter University. I went on to study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (R.E) at St Luke's and enjoyed teaching in Exeter for six years. A strong sense of calling to ordained ministry led me back to Lee Abbey a decade later to explore vocation, where I worked as Personal Assistant to the Warden and as a member of the Leadership and Pastoral Team for 2 years. After Lee Abbey, I undertook context-based theological training with M.A. study in Applied Theology at Trinity College, Bristol.

### **Ministry**

I returned to Exeter in 2008 to serve my curacy in Alphington Mission Community, (with Ide and Shillingford) for 4 years, which included time working with the Chaplaincy at MediaCity in Salford, hosting Archbishops' Rowan Williams and John Sentamu in conversation with the BBC. My curacy provided experience of both urban and rural ministry and I was involved with large-scale ecumenical prayer projects in the city centre, before moving on to Chelmsford Diocese to serve as Chaplain to Bishop Stephen Cottrell. In Chelmsford, I worked on the Bishop's Staff Team for 3 years. I undertook responsibilities which included: national Church administration, media projects, planning key Diocesan services and centenary events and as Chaplain to the Diocesan staff. This has given me valuable experience of the workings of a Diocese and a clear understanding of Church of England Comms. I am at ease working across all Church traditions and I believe I have gained a good knowledge of Church governance. In 2015, I was delighted to be appointed to a missional role as Lazenby Chaplain at Exeter University which has drawn ministry threads together. I work as Anglican Chaplain to students and staff, whilst also co-ordinating a growing Multifaith Chaplaincy team.

### **Interests**

I am a jazz music enthusiast and enjoy singing choral and contemporary music. I have recently taken up running and love walking in the beauty spots of Devon.

### **Vision**

Re-imagining the Church for the future is the key task for all of us. Working with young people, I hear their issues and questions about the Church on a regular basis and so I believe I am well placed to represent them. I also believe that I have been privileged in ministry to work closely with colleagues from all Church traditions and so I sense I have the capacity to be a bridge builder as we continue to move forward on some thorny issues at General Synod; not least around human sexuality. The Diocese of Exeter is rich and varied and so in standing for General Synod I hope to represent you well and to be authentic to the issues that are particularly prevalent for us in rural and urban ministry.

