

# Susan Way

23 Wyndham Square, Plymouth PL1 5EG  
01752 240119 [sue.way62@gmail.com](mailto:sue.way62@gmail.com)



Proposed by: Anneliese Barrell  
Seconded by: Emma Forward

## Home and Family Life:

I was born in 1968 in Cardiff, South Wales and was educated in a Church Primary School and Secondary School in Cardiff. I am married to David and we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August 2018. I have lived in Cardiff for 34 years and in the Cynon Valley of South Wales for 13 years. Three years ago, we moved to Plymouth as my husband was appointed as Vicar of St. Peter and the Holy Apostles Mission Community. We have two sons, Ben who is 27 and studying at Swansea University from where he will graduate this year and Adam who is 24 and who lives in Bristol after he graduated from Bath University after reading English.

## Career:

I am the Homeless Projects Manager for Church Army and I manage its homelessness work in England and Wales. I started my career with Church Army in Cardiff in 1996, working in residential projects (hostels) for 19 homeless young people aged 16-21 years old, called Ty Bronna and Ty Danescourt. I began by working 11 hours a week doing administration work and progressed through the ranks to managing the whole service in 2007. As such I have worked in every role within the service. In 2015 Church Army reviewed its homelessness work and I became the Homeless Projects Manager for England and Wales which incorporates the work of Ty Bronna and Ty Danescourt and the Marylebone Project in London. The Marylebone Project is a residential project for 112 homeless women, has a staff team of approximately 45, and incorporates a day centre for women who sleep rough in London, and a Social Enterprise of Space, where meeting rooms can be hired, and Munch, which is a catering service. Being the senior manager for Ty Bronna and Ty Danescourt and the Marylebone Project means my working week is split between Cardiff and London, however, as the manager of my own diary I am able to be flexible in this arrangement. I see my work as a lay vocation and appreciate working at a senior level within a Christian organisation.

## Church Life:

I started attending Church in Cardiff when I was three years old and was baptised at the age of eight. I became a member of the Primary School and Church choirs at the age of seven and started reading and leading intercessions in Church when I was eight years old. At the age of 14 of I became a Peer Youth Leader in my Church Youth Club, taking over the role of Children's Club and Youth Club Leader at the age of 17. This also included running an annual youth club holiday to the South West, Penzance and Plymouth, for children and young people from underprivileged families in Cardiff. At the age of 18 I became Secretary to my PCC, a post I held until we moved from Cardiff to the South Wales Valleys in 2002. I have been a clergy wife for 21 years, following my husband's ordination as deacon in 1997. As a family, we lived in St. Michael's Theological College in Cardiff from 1994 to 1997, whilst my husband underwent theological training. During that time, I studied for a local college theological certificate course and performed the role of Spouses Group Leader, arranging social events and speakers and providing general support to Ordinand's Spouses. In 2007 I was elected to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales and served in this role until we left South

Wales to live in Plymouth in 2015. Throughout my life I have always participated in as much of Church life as I could; ranging from reading, intercessing and singing in Church from childhood to the present and singing solo Psalms and anthems, to being a member of the PCC of all Churches I have attended, to participating in rotas of cleaning and all aspects of hospitality, to participating in numerous Christian adventure youth camps and various Pilgrimages of the National Youth Pilgrimage in Walsingham, the National Pilgrimage in Walsingham and Parish Pilgrimages to Llangasty, Buckfast Abbey and Walsingham, to supporting and helping all people in need to the best of my ability and capability.

### **Hobbies and Interests:**

I enjoy reading psychological thrillers, doing crossword puzzles and jigsaw puzzles. I enjoy spending time with my family and I love boats so I have been able to combine these interests into one by having an annual family boating holiday on the Norfolk Broads for the past 16 years, a holiday and experience that still attracts our sons. I have always enjoyed camping and we have holidayed using our touring caravan since our children were born until our caravan had served its time and needed to be decommissioned. In 2000 we bought an ambulance that we converted into a motor home, which my husband and I used for short mini breaks around the UK. In 2014 we bought a replacement ambulance that we again converted into a motor home. What this means is that my husband converted the ambulance into a motor home and I say that 'we' did it. Being able to participate in youth camps and adventure camps enables me to continue with my love of camping and youth work in a more conventional sense, whereas my work in Cardiff with homeless young people is also youth work albeit in a non-conventional sense.

Having been a member of the Anglican Church since the age of three and living in working class areas and areas identified as having social deprivation, and having worked with homeless people for 22 years, I am aware of the wider social welfare issues and am passionate about fairness and helping those in need. Being the senior manager of homelessness services has enabled me to have contact with various people in political and Church life and from various funding bodies. In recent years this has included Politicians, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, who visited the Marylebone Project and these visits enable me to highlight the issues of social welfare and campaign for services for homeless people.

I am from an Anglo-Catholic tradition and having been a member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, I have seen the positives that diversity, mutual flourishing and working together can achieve in the Church, both in its national and local context, addressing social welfare, campaigning for justice, reaching people in need, living out the Gospel and showing the love and good news of Jesus to people, areas and a world that is so desperate to experience it.

Thank you for taking time to read this and I hope that this gives you a feel for my passion to serve the Church in its responsibilities to God's people as I am mindful that the historic diversity of Anglicanism is maintained and concerned there are worrying signs, in today's Church, of a bland monochrome culture.

Prayerful best wishes

*Susan Way*