

# Becky Hodgkinson

Dear Elector,

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I am grateful for the opportunity to write to you, and I hope that you will find the below information helpful and that it will provide you with assurance that I have the necessary experience, passion and skills to enable me to serve as a representative for the House of Laity at General Synod. If you have any questions, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss anything further.

You can contact me at: [becky\\_hodg@hotmail.com](mailto:becky_hodg@hotmail.com)

**Proposer:** Ruth Sayers, Plymouth City Deanery

**Secunder:** Jonathan Porter Goff, Christianity Deanery



## About Me:

I'm 35 years old and am single. I've been living in Ivybridge, South Devon for the past four years, having relocated after spending ten years in London. I grew up in the Midlands, but nearly all my family have moved to Devon in the past decade. I live with my older sister, and seven-year-old nephew, as well as a very cheeky cocker spaniel. My interests are all things outdoors, be that dog walks, sea swims, or paddleboarding, but I also have a great love of reading and above all spending quality time with family and friends.

## Professional Experience:

I have been a social worker for ten years working in child protection, court proceedings, fostering and adoption. I currently work as an independent social worker undertaking a range of assessments of families across local authorities in Devon and Cornwall. I also sit on a local fostering panel and undertake quality assurance work and supervision of other social workers. My professional experience and role have enabled me to develop essential skills of empathy, compassion, active listening, advocacy, strong communication skills, the ability to manage complex situations and relationships, and work with people from a wide range of backgrounds.

## Church Background:

I have attended several different CofE churches since I was child but would say that I became a Christian in my early 20's whilst at university. Since that time, I have been a committed member of church and have enjoyed helping with children's work, leading small groups, and was one of the designated safeguarding leads at my previous church. At my current church (St Andrew's, Plymouth), I help with the student work, music and am a member of the PCC.

**Key issues that I am passionate about within the Church of England:****1. Social Justice**

As a social worker, I am particularly passionate about social justice, striving to uplift those marginalised by society and those who are often voiceless and powerless. The Church of England has a vital role in promoting justice and compassion, and I am committed to amplifying these efforts as we seek to put our faith into action. In my view, it is essential that the church leads the way in serving local communities, and those who are most vulnerable within these, addressing and engaging with local issues like poverty and homelessness and supporting local charities and community programmes. The parish church should be a beacon of light in the community, where people feel they can go in time of need and be welcomed and cared for.

**2. Inclusion and Diversity**

As someone that is single, I have benefitted hugely from attending churches that are welcoming, inclusive and where people are committed to getting alongside and discipling one another. I think it is essential that church is a safe place for people from all walks of life, different experiences and background and where diversity is celebrated. As a church we are continuing to grapple with some of the issues around Living in Love and Faith. These concerns must be discussed with compassion and respect. As a life-long member of the Church of England, I will continue to uphold the doctrine of marriage.

**3. Outreach to Younger Generations**

We are seeing an ongoing decline across the UK of young people, and indeed people of my generation, attending church. In rural areas this is an even greater issue. Throughout my life I have benefitted significantly from attending Sunday school, summer camps, student group and a group for people in their 20's, all of which have enabled church to feel like a place that is relevant for me and where my faith has grown. The Church of England needs to ensure that work amongst the younger generations is fully resourced, so that the gospel message is preserved from one generation to the next.

**4. Money and Mission**

Concerns around money seem to be ongoing within the Church of England. Even within our own Diocese there are plans to reduce the number of clergy. I think we should be bold with our plans and focus our resources on supporting front-line ministry.

Many thanks for your consideration and please do vote for me as one of your high preference candidates.

In Christ, Becky