

## Questions for House of Laity Hustings July 2025

Laura Mitchell

- 1- How would your election to General Synod enhance the representation of the diocese as a whole?**

*In Lincoln diocese, I don't see many young(ish!) evangelical women represented on Synod. To represent the full breadth of the CofE, I think my election would help address this gap. I also am working directly with children and young people, particularly those with neurodiversity, from an often misrepresented, deprived urban estate to whom I am keen to give a voice. (60)*

- 2- How best do you think the National Church could use its significant financial resources to further the 5-marks of mission?**

*In this generation, far fewer children hear the good news of the kingdom in church or at home. I think significant investment should be made into school's work, supporting and strengthening Christian religious and historical education, plus development of good quality resources in a digital format to proclaim the gospel online in a way that is understandable and relevant. (59)*

- 3- Can you provide an example of the last time you advocated for a position that was not your own?**

*As a doctor I have advocated for lots of people very different from myself (other religions and cultures, drug addicts, homeless people, a convicted paedophile, those with different sexuality and behaviour). I was known for being kind, fair and non-judgemental. Most recently in church, I have advocated for children with neurodiversity and teenagers from the estate who are often misrepresented. (60)*

- 4- What is your position regarding those of a different sexuality seeking acceptance within a Church Community and do you agree with same sex couples having a Service of Blessing in church?**

*Whilst I would welcome anyone of any sexuality seeking acceptance within a Church community, I do not agree with same sex couples having a service of blessing in church. I*

*hold to the traditional orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and believe that with discipleship comes a call to holiness and sanctification which affects all of us, including our sexual behaviour. (60)*

**5- What do you recognise as the challenges for improving diversity within the Church of England?**

- *Our name, to start, is very Anglocentric.*
- *Leadership – this is getting better but power is still skewed to the white, male, elite/educated.*
- *Some of our liturgy and ritual can alienate young people as the language and form are inaccessible.*
- *We need to model diversity ourselves, how diverse is **my** local church? Do **I** reach out over lines of difference? (60)*

**6- What is the main issue that General Synod needs to address over the next 6-years?**

*Whatever happens with LLF we face an ongoing challenge with the unity of the church. Financial sustainability and the relationship between diocese, parish and the church commissioners will be an ongoing debate. The key question though is how the church will grow a new generation of missionary disciples who are younger and more diverse to reach and serve the nation? (60)*