

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY

General Synod Election Address

SALLY MUGGERIDGE

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Proposed by Derek Pilcher and seconded by Stella North

What are the big issues that I support?

- ❖ The Health of the Church - the majority of our Churches are emptying, not filling. In many rural areas like mine, the Church congregation is literally dying off. An ex-parishioner asked me why he should come along to 'Back to Church Sunday' if nothing has changed since he last came. Are we preoccupied with our ancient buildings to the expense of creating a living church? Is Team Ministry really the best way to formulate stronger relationships between the parishioner and the local church? Synod must address the changing nature of Society. Fresh Expressions has revitalised many cities but does not always reach into the rural environment. Imaginative changes are needed to breathe new life into our decaying fabric.
- ❖ The Wealth of the Church - the decreasing band of ageing loyal supporters at parish level can no longer donate sufficiently to keep all rural churches afloat. On average it costs £10 per person to provide a church service for those attending. So as we look to the future we need to think radically how we can best operate and collaborate. Austerity is upon us and our use of churches needs fresh thought and vision.
- ❖ Women Bishops - the final vote has passed and it will happen (but not for several years). Our challenge is how to make provision for those who cannot fully accept the ministry of a woman Bishop. There has been a danger of splitting the Church and the proposed measure is now committed to every diocese for its consideration. Half of the dioceses are required to support the measure if it is to proceed. It is now up to all of us not just to express our views but to listen to those of others.
- ❖ Human Sexuality - it would be better to spend our time and energies alleviating poverty of body and soul for everyone in our parishes than constantly debating this contentious issue. Let us get more pastoral and set our priorities for discussion rather better. There are greater, far more pressing needs of our age.



It would be an honour and privilege to be elected to represent Canterbury Diocese on General Synod. Our Diocese is widely acknowledged to be one of the most varied in its demographic and geographic landscape. The environment is both urban and rural, deprived and affluent, grand and modest, beautiful and unsightly, connected and isolated.

My husband and I have worshipped at St Andrew's, Tilmanstone since moving to the village in 1999 on our return from living in Singapore. I serve on the PCC and take responsibility for fundraising and the mission plan. I also sit on Sandwich Deanery Synod.

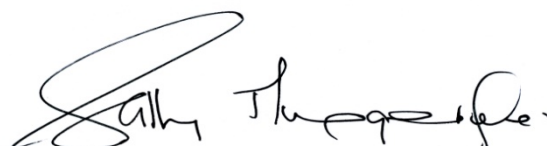
Since 2003 I have been Chief Executive of the Industry and Parliament Trust. The charity seeks to ensure that our elected Members of Parliament understand the issues that face all those who create the wealth of our country and drive the economy - organisations large and small, and all of us who work across every sector of industry contributing to the success of our nation. I therefore have experience of scrutinising and proposing revision of complex and divisive legislative proposals. I also know and appreciate the work of the 26 Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords. I stepped down from this role in July 2010 in order to devote more time to the church and to theological study.

As a business woman I have a proven track record working over thirty years in large multi faceted organisations that can struggle to bring unity and cohesiveness to people and processes. I was engaged in business at a director level in major and complex organisations, in BT, Cable and Wireless and Pearson. As a marketing specialist in a human resource role I created and led major initiatives that brought people together to solve major issues and tackle challenges, helping them to develop their own skills and those of others.

Throughout my career I have always sought to encourage younger people to get involved in issues important to them and to engender faith in their own capabilities and possibilities. I retain an open and enquiring mind and I am always open to learning about new and interesting ways of how the Church of England can move forward in charity and hope. I am not prejudiced or unwilling to listen to views that do not accord with mine. My faith underpins everything I do and say. I am for Christ, Christians and Christianity and I would counter the view of a world without God. I have a continuing desire to work at maintaining and growing within others an unassailable faith in the risen Christ. A priority in my life is to help our Church live out its mission in word and deed.

I am a Trustee of the Foundation for Church Leadership, a charity that provides development and learning to senior leaders in the church and their teams. A founder Trustee of the Tutu Foundation UK, I had the privilege of bringing the Archbishop to worship at St Mary's, Eastry in 2009 for a special celebratory benefice service.

With Synod facing many difficult issues ahead I would specifically ask for your first preference vote. I bring wisdom and much experience to bear on the discussions that affect the future of the Church.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Thurgate'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.