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Dear Elector,

It is my great pleasure, after prayer and due consideration, to offer myself to represent you and the Diocese of Bristol in the House of Laity in the General Synod. I am a member of Frenchay Parish Church and live in Frenchay with my husband Paul. We have three grown up children and grandchildren. I am a British national (originally from Nigeria) and was baptised and confirmed into the Anglican church in Nigeria. In my early years at university, I sadly strayed away from the Christian faith but re-committed my life to Christ in my final year at university. I have not turned back since then.

I lived in the Midlands for many years before moving to the South West. After many years of working as a solicitor, I have adopted a more flexible lifestyle to enable a better life balance and accommodate my love for poetry. I am now able to spend more time enjoying my family and writing. I am a member of the Association of Christian Writers and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

When I lived in the Midlands, I helped run the Alpha Course, Junior Church, the women's group at church and did street outreaches to the homeless and to streetwalkers. In my previous church in Bristol, I was part of the Global Partners team which supports missions. We facilitated the Kairos Course, equipping people for cross-cultural mission. As a result, I went on a short mission to Spain to work alongside our Spain-based Global Partners on the streets of Alcalá de Henares and in Madrid. Now in the Benefice of Frenchay and Stapleton, I help to organise Wednesday evening prayer meetings.

In the past, I have volunteered as a Director of Langley House Trust and of Kainos Community respectively. These Christian-based organisations are involved in rehabilitation of offenders/ ex-offenders by supporting them to live crime-free lives in society. I presently volunteer with CrossAfrica International, an organisation that promotes education in African villages. We are currently working with Jeremi Model Academy, Otu-Jeremi, in the Niger-Delta area of Nigeria.

My main interest is in evangelism and church growth. I used to attend an independent evangelical church but I continued to feel a sense of belonging to the Anglican Communion. When I moved to Frenchay in December 2019, I decided to worship in my local C of E church. My return was motivated by my deep concern on seeing many empty Church of England buildings, sometimes being converted to offices, flats or even shops as congregations diminish in some of our churches. I am also concerned about the limited diversity and reduced multi-generational congregations in some of our churches.

I believe that there is need for transformation of the Church of England in order to enhance a more sustainable church. If elected to the General Synod, I will promote a more modern evangelical approach which will widen participation in our churches whilst holding firmly to the truth of God's word. The church is going through challenging times at the moment with a lot of societal apathy towards God and the church. As a church, we need to focus on the salvation message with an emphasis on people knowing Jesus. We need to encourage more young people and have a more racially and socially diverse church. If elected, I will as a representative of Bristol Diocese, promote Bristol's values as a City of Sanctuary.

I love Jesus and seek the opportunity to serve through the General Synod. If elected, I will do my best to contribute to the preservation of the values of the Church of England and promote the growth and development of the Church. I hope you feel able to support my election to General Synod. I will very grateful for your first preference vote or the highest preference vote that you can give. I commit to make myself available to serve and prayerfully represent you and the Diocese of Bristol at General Synod. My passion, motivation and commitment to you is further set out in my YouTube video https://youtu.be/T722Vcag_aQ . If you would like more information or you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on 07890503574 or by email (ochristiana@aol.com).