

## Robert Thompson

Vicar of St Mary's Kilburn & St James' West Hampstead

Proposed by: Jarel Robinson-Brown; Assistant Curate, St Botolph's Aldgate

Seconded by: Jess Swift, Vicar St Ann's Tottenham

### About me:

- The Church of England's diversity has facilitated by own journey of faith with Jesus from a conservative Evangelical context into a '(post-) liberal, evangelical, Catholic,' with broad liturgical sympathies
- Having served my title at St Martin's Ruislip with its deep, Catholic spirituality I am passionate about people finding spiritual discipline/structure and parishes committed to numerical growth as part of mission
- Having served as a hospital chaplain for 18 years, working with HTB curates and volunteers, I am passionate about pastoral care and confidence in the Holy Spirit and charismatic renewal
- Serving as Vicar of a Black majority parish with a debt advice service, post office, coffee shop and children's soft play centre, I am passionate about creative, parochial mission
- Working in an area of deprivation with strong Catholic, Jewish and Muslim communities, I am passionate about joint community work to address poverty and the climate crisis
- Being a gay man, in committed relationship, and serving a really diverse parish, I am passionate about inclusion, celebrating difference, equity and justice

### Key priorities of the Church of England:

I am standing to help grow a diverse and

**Inclusive Church**, to

**Save the Parish** as the primary location of mission, to

**Strengthen Safeguarding** and **Clergy Wellbeing** and to

**Reform the Episcopacy** in order to rebalance and check power

**1) Building an Inclusive & Diverse Church:** I would support in Synod legislation brought forward to:

- admit all people to all ministries, and marriage, on equal terms, whilst providing for those who in conscience cannot accept this
- address the lives of all people on equal terms by providing for advocates and chaplaincies that will enable us, across all our differences, to flourish and live in unity
- implement safeguarding assessments/transparency statements outlining theological positions and the pastoral care that women & LGBTQIA+ people, in particular, may expect

**2) Saving the Parish's primacy in a Mission-Shaped Church:** I support the aims and objectives of Save the Parish and in addition to their aims would also work in Synod to bring forward legislation that would:

- develop collaborative mission-shaped/pioneering initiatives within the context of the parish as the primary missional unit that are not created in competition to them
- scrap BMOs which are increasingly given without the consent of local people in particular parishes and are detrimental to the wellbeing of parochial clergy and people
- reform the structures of DACs which at present prioritise historical considerations in relation to building development over missional and liturgical renewal

**3) Setting up independent Safeguarding and CDM structures/processes:**

I would advocate in ongoing Synodical work and debates to:

- support the mandatory reporting of all safeguarding concerns to local authorities
- make safeguarding oversight independent of the church to ensure that we are complying with the best practice expected within our society
- make the CDM process/structure independent of the Episcopacy since the missional, pastoral and judicial vocations of bishops are at present in conflict

**4) Supporting the clergy and reforming the Episcopacy:** I would seek to bring forward work and legislation in Synod in order to:

- initiate proactive, professional, structured and regular supervision for all clergy to aid well-being, and our effectiveness in leading mission
- make the appointment and the work of bishops more open, transparent and, at least partly, democratic, including the publication of minutes of meetings and voting records
- address the lack of scrutiny of episcopal power and decision making by considering strengthening the roles of elected lay and clerical members of diocesan synods

### **Thanks & my support of Fiona Jack**

Many thanks for reading this statement. I am committed to actively representing Clergy of the Diocese in General Synod from right across our traditions. There are many other issues that Synod will consider in the next 5 years than just those above; if you would like to contact me by email I am very happy to respond to any questions you may have:

[vicaragekilburn@btopenworld.com](mailto:vicaragekilburn@btopenworld.com)

If you do choose to give me your first preference vote I recommend that you cast your second preference for **Fiona Jack** who I am supporting.