



## GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION INFORMATION FOR:

**Revd. Andrew TEATHER**

**Deanery of Brent.**

**Area Dean of Brent**

**Vicar, St Matthew's Willesden**

**Police Chaplain.**

**Proposer: Revd. Wilson Gill, Willesden Dean of Cultural Diversity, Vicar of Emmanuel Southall.**

**Seconder: Revd. Will Leaf, Vicar of St Marks Kensal Rise.**

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Dear Friend,

I have served on Diocesan Synods since my Diaconal year, so hopefully I have some knowledge of the good and less useful ways in which the Church of England operates. Primarily, I am standing on an 'inclusion and Renewal' ticket. 'Inclusion' because we are all members of the Body of Christ and it behoves us to include and affirm each other, whether we agree or not on any number of issues—there are a myriad of problems in the world and the church and we should not seek to add to them by dividing the Body. 'Renewal' because as the Body of Christ, we seek to be continually moulded and renewed in His image, that we 'may lead the rest of our life according to this new beginning' which we received at our Baptism.

In Synod, I would support strongly the gifts that God has already bestowed upon our Church, including the Parish System which is a structure of support and hope to ourselves and the nation we serve, while also strongly supporting the use of Bishop's Mission Orders, properly granted, to sustain and refresh the life of Parishes and seek out new converts that we may fulfil our calling in a changing world. It is also incumbent upon us to support those who have been damaged by the Church and to wield scalpels at places where we have covered up and shied away from accountability.

One of the most pressing areas of our common life is, I believe, a reawakening of our place in the world-wide Anglican Communion, and with other member churches, to reject the globalisation of superficiality—where human relationships are being suffocated by the advancement of technology and the overbearing desire for individual, financial/material 'wealth' - which threatens to tear our society apart. Only by looking outwards to our global partners, indeed to our global members of the Body of Christ, and committing to learn from and share with them, can this be effectively countered. Our natural divisions of Churchmanship and Party must take a back seat lest we become irrelevant to a changed world.

Adolfo Nicolas, the previous Superior General of the Jesuits, said at his election 'Today all nations are gathered here. Each and every one is represented here. However, nations continue to appear. I ask myself today who are these 'nations', these non geographical communities, these human communities which ask for our help: they are the poor, the marginalized, the outcast. In our globalized universe, the number of absolute outcasts is increasing. The outcasts are failing, because in our society there is only room for the

great and not for the little ones. All those who are disadvantaged, manipulated, all these are perhaps for us these 'nations': nations which need the prophetic message of God'. I suggest that we seek to be collaborators in this great world, reflecting in our city that which is reflected in Christ's Body. A myriad of people, united in one common wish for the health, the salvation and the joy of the poor—which is the primary ardent wish of any Christian governing body like ours.

Ecumenism and Interfaith work are important parts of our life together and the Synod should seek unity of Christians in conscience and according to our tradition as we have received it, thus expressing the needs of the world and the future Kingdom. I am a Christian before I am an Anglican, but I am convinced by the claims of our Church.

Sexuality is a topic of much discussion in our Church and the world. All clergy should feel able to live freely and according to the teaching of Scripture. Parishes will only benefit from Clergy who feel able to tell the truth about their sexual orientation and which of the two genders they are. Living a concealed life or feeling that they have to hide parts of their identity is no basis for a healthy parish or a healthy life.

Education is in my blood and in the blood of the Church. I have been a School Governor for my ordained life and occasionally Chair of Governors - both of Primary and Secondary Schools, and I have Chaired a great number of tribunals, including one with over three hundred allegations which took many weeks to conclude. Our Schools are a jewel in the crown and I am firmly of the belief that they should be supported fully and that we should be looking at ways to increase the Theological Education in them and to increase the role of the Parochial Clergy so that we raise up a generation of disciples of Christ who are eloquent and convinced about their faith. This is crucial to our life together.

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## **PERSONAL DETAILS.**

I am 46 years old, and a Northerner in Exile here in London, although I have lived in other countries and feel at home in this world city.

As Area Dean of Brent, I have responsibilities in the most diverse borough in the world, and I rejoice in that in all its technicolour glory, while also being very aware of the needs of the urban poor and those who are forgotten and oppressed. As Police Chaplain I am used to reacting to ever changing situations and varied need, and as Vicar of St Matthew's I have overseen a complete renewal of our buildings and mission in this blessed place. I have learned much about the good and fair use of our assets, land and buildings and believe that a wider view needs to be taken across the whole Church of England at how we use our assets equitably to support each other.

Before Ordination, I was a Stage Manager and I owned a restaurant. I have a balanced, and fair mind, and I value integrity and truth above anything else. If we are to convert people to Christ, I have always felt that we best do so through showing the good and bad times, and committing to living in our communities according to the parish system. I have been a Christian all my life, and one day I hope to be a good one.

Thank you for reading this. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have, and I would appreciate your prayers and of course your vote! I would endeavour to use it wisely and to serve you and the whole church diligently.

My email address is [andrewteather@gmail.com](mailto:andrewteather@gmail.com)—do feel free to contact me.