

# Mthr. Fiona Jack

## Standing for LGBTQ+ Inclusion in the Church of England

Nominated by: Mthr. Carol Barrett Ford, Vicar, St. Martin's, Gospel Oak

Seconded by: Rev'd. Dr. John Seymour, Interim priest, St. Lawrence, Eastcote



### Why vote for me?

First and foremost, I want to stand up for greater **LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Church of England**. I am bisexual, have a gay son and a bi daughter. *Living in Love and Faith* is due to be discussed in the next Synod, so we need clergy who identify as LGBTQ+ to be present. **There should be no discussion about us - without us.** If you care about LGBTQ+ inclusion and equal marriage, please show this by giving your first preference vote to an LGBTQ+ candidate.

### About me

I serve as Curate at St. Barnabas Church, an Anglo Catholic parish in Ealing. I am single, with two grown-up children. As a woman from a catholic background, I represent a liberal progressive tradition.

Originally from South Yorkshire, after university I moved to London where I've lived ever since. A cradle Anglican, my first experience was in a middle of road, rural parish. I trained for ministry at Sarum College, and as part of my training, I undertook a transformational placement in Johannesburg including a spell in a township church.

Before ordination, I have run (and continue to do so part-time) my own strategic research and marketing consultancy for over 20 years. My professional experience brings skills such as **independence of judgement, the ability to weigh up arguments, and a capacity to express complex ideas with clarity.** In my secular life I was Vice Chair of a Professional Standards Committee, tasked with overseeing and adjudicating **claims of misconduct and developing best practice** guidelines.

### I am not a one-issue candidate: here are some priorities:

- I wholeheartedly support the parish and ordained and sacramental ministry. I am in favour of equipping and training priests, deacons and ordinands from **all walks of life**, especially those from **BAME or other minority groups**. A visible Christian presence in every community is of paramount importance. A clerical collar enables doors to be opened and conversations to be started. 'Being with' people in our local communities is a powerful witness, which we water down at our peril.
- I believe in a gospel of radical hospitality irrespective of age, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexual orientation, whilst **respecting those who hold a position contrary to my own**. I am an experienced reconciler and builder of community. I would like to see a Church where **all are genuinely welcome at our Lord's table**, and where all feel respected for who they are and

can express their God-given identity. I have walked alongside those who believe in God with all their heart and who have been **rejected by the Church because of their sexual orientation**. It's high time to address this matter.

- Mission is of prime importance. The Church should be confident in its calling to preach the gospel and to **reverse the decline in numbers, especially amongst young people**. I would like to see a broadening of approaches to youth and children's ministry to allow them, through sacrament and liturgy, to experience the mystery and transcendence of God. (I preside at a weekly Eucharist for the under 5s and their parents). We must also seek to build on the success of online worship during Covid 19 and its potential to access a new audience, whilst appreciating the importance of gathering in person.
- **Protecting the integrity of creation and caring for the planet; understanding our place in the universe is vital**. Enabling and encouraging participation in the Eco church scheme to assist the Diocese of London to achieve its target of being carbon neutral by 2030. We are in this together and **each parish and individual must play their part in reversing climate change**.
- Social justice – practising what we preach and living out the gospel in action by working to **build liveable communities through a culture of encouragement and action**, with a particular focus on the ever-widening social and economic divides in our country. Many churches have been at the epicentre of dealing with issues exacerbated by the pandemic - people turned to us in their need and we responded. We should not lose that impetus and continue to build on the good-will we have engendered during this national and international crisis. **The fact that parishes understand their local contexts means that they are particularly well-placed to meet this need**.
- Grasping the nettle of sustainable finances to protect and **safeguard our traditions**, whilst evolving into an **organisation fit for the challenges of the modern world**. Finances follow people of course, so we are back to mission.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss any of the above: [fionajack@barnabites.net](mailto:fionajack@barnabites.net)

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I hope that you will consider giving me your first preference vote. I would also encourage you to give a high preference vote to [Fr. Robert Thompson, another LGBTQ+ priest](#) and a strong voice for inclusion.