

Revd Prebendary Amatu Onundu Christian-Iwuagwu [MBA, MA, CEng. CMgr. PhD]

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Firstly, thank you for electing me to the General Synod at the last by-election in 2020. It was a privilege to serve you in this way and I hope this address may persuade you to vote for me once again this time around for the full quinquennium of the Synod.

In Michaelmas this year, I will be celebrating 20 years of priesthood; currently Priest in Charge of St Mark's and St Stephen's Bush Hill Park in the Enfield Deanery. I am also the Edmonton Episcopal Area Director of Mission and Racial Justice and a Non-Executive Church Commissioner, serving on the Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee (MPCPC).



I am married to Princess, a Lay Reader and Chartered Accountant heading the technical finance team at the London Fire Service. We are blessed with five children, three boys and two girls. Before my appointment in 2007 as Vicar of Harmondsworth for thirteen and half years, I served my first title at a West London Estate parish followed by an Associate Priest post in a semi-urban and rural team ministry in the diocese of St Alban's.

Prior to ordination, I trained as an Electrical Engineer. I attained Chartered Engineer and Chartered Manager status about 10 years ago having worked for 25 years in the Public Sector, the Oil & Gas sector and for the past 5 years as a consultant, delivering major change projects, including Siemens-Crossrail and Network Rail-Great Western Electrification projects, CB&I SCPx project, Shell Onegas project.

In my spare time, I am carrying out academic research work at London School of Theology (Middlesex University) looking at "the influence of secularisation on diaspora Christian culture – using London as a case study". My interest on the topic was kindled following a successful church plant that targeted strategic return of diaspora African Anglicans (Igbo speaking Nigerians) in the UK to the Church of England.

1. I feel I can contribute with GRACE & TRUTH in the debates around:
 - **Ongoing Vision and Strategy of the Church of England and saving our Parish Core Face** – my extensive experience in rural, suburban and urban parishes, means I am well placed to understand a variety of parish contexts and the pressures each are under currently, both as we come out of lockdown and the longer-term financial issues.
 - **Financial Stress that we must deal with and role of Self-Supporting Ministers (SSMs) in the mixed-economy model of ministry and vocations.** As a former SSM myself, I am able to raise these matters from a position of knowledge and broaden our understanding of vocation in the church.
 - **LLF** – I long for us as a church to see each other first not as 'others' but as all made in God's image and so to relate with grace and respect in these discussions. We must too in all humility bring God's truth to bear in our discussions.

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- **Environment and Climate change** – my service in the parish of Harmondsworth meant we saw in detail the social cost of environmental issues with the debates on a third runway at Heathrow.
 - **Housing** – I have served in both an estate ministry context - and understand many of the pressures on housing that brings - and in a parish under threat of demolition near Heathrow.
 - **Revised Clergy Disciplinary Measure**
2. I am also passionate about how the Church identifies, train and resources leaders for the current and future challenges with a special focus on developing servant-leadership and strategy. Over the past 16 years, I have mentored 14 young people and all of them have taken the path of ordination in the Church of England.
 3. Also, the Black Lives Matter movement has presented afresh ongoing issues of diversity within the Church of England and having successfully led a team of clergy recently to deliver “the Service of Lamentation and Hope” online, I have enough evidence that suggests that, if a marginal area exists, between two dominant centres, it can include both centres and become a new core. Since I have already experienced suffering and alienation as a marginalised group in the Church of England (both as former SSM and UK Minority Ethnic clergy), I have an advantage to understand situations of diversity and hopefully I am better placed to raise and support motions that will seek to aid and enable the dominant culture (the Church of England) to connect with other marginalised groups within its systems while at the same time offering the Church credible opportunities that will help find a solution to escape from her difficulties.

All of this needs to happen in the context of a church bruised as it emerges from the pandemic. I trust, in the strength that only the Lord can give, that together we will be able to work to build on new contacts made and rebuild contacts lost. As we partner together serving the Lord Jesus in this nation, may we find joy in our service and sustenance in God’s word and at the Lord’s table.

I hope I have been able to persuade you to vote for me! Please consider giving me your first, second or third preference vote. My contact details are above, and I will be delighted to hear from you whether now, or if elected, with any issues you may need to raise.

God Bless



Revd Prebendary Dr Amatu Onundu Christian-Iwuagwu