

# Richard Bastable

## Candidate for General Synod



### Dear Elector,

My name is Richard Bastable. I am 38 years old and have been **the vicar of St Luke, Uxbridge Road in Shepherds Bush** for the last eight years. This year I'm taking on the additional role of Priest-in-Charge of St Matthew's, Sinclair Road.

I was ordained in 2008 and have served all my ministry in the Diocese of London. I have also served on Diocesan Synod, as Chapter Clerk for the Deanery of Hammersmith & Fulham, and as a Vocations Adviser.

For me, parish ministry is a thing of great joy. I love gathering with God's people at the altar, preaching the gospel, baptising, preparing for confirmation, conducting marriages, ministering to the sick, praying with the dying, comforting the bereaved, and commending the departed to God.

I love forming new links in our community, sharing ideas for mission with my PCC, devising ways to support local charities, engaging with young people, offering teaching series, encouraging people to pray, to read, and to engage with their faith.

I know that ministry can be frustrating and sometimes lonely. Sometimes it feels as if the burden of administration is increasing, as if money is scarce and fundraising takes time and energy away from other, more priestly activities, as if many of the day-to-day tasks seem to bear little resemblance to the inspiring training I received.

It is as if other forms of ministry, and indeed other forms of church, are championed more from the centre and as if hopes for colleagues to support an active parish mission seem to depend more on money and form-filling than they do on growth, potential, or need.

**The Christian faith saves souls and transforms communities. I am standing for election to General Synod because I believe the Church of England, at its best, embodies the identity and actions that necessarily flow from this, and I want to ensure that we don't lose sight of that.**

In the last two years we have witnessed extraordinary circumstances which have exposed gaps between the experiences on the ground in the parishes and the words and actions of the hierarchy.

I believe we need to be attentive to our parishes, our parishioners, and our parish priests. **If elected to General Synod, I will advocate:**

- Adequate support for parish ministry including the prioritisation of resources to ensure there that parish priests are able to delight in their ministry.
- Meaningful reviews of the church's structures so that reform where necessary can release funds to support ministry in our parishes and priests to serve in them.
- Refreshing of our identity from the foundational sources of the Scriptures, the Creeds, the teachings of the Fathers and the Councils of the church.
- Prioritisation of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable in our mission to ensure those from parishes that experience deprivation are able to live the Magnificat.
- Encouraging vocations to ministry, both lay and ordained, and ensuring adequate support for that ministry, including cherishing stipendiary ministry in parishes.
- An escape from the faddish nature of many mission initiatives, new visions and strategies, and to refocus on the church's core priorities and identity.
- The use of wisdom and insight where it can be found outside the church, whilst always ensuring our reasoning and practices are deeply informed by the gospels.
- The importance of ensuring that clergy discipline and safeguarding are properly and sensitively handled, and that current processes are appropriately reformed.
- Faithfulness to the church's identity in the practice of the sacraments, particularly in relation to Holy Matrimony and the seal of Confession.

**I am standing for General Synod to promote these causes and because I believe fervently in the Christian faith, in the church, and in the Church of England. I hope you share my aspirations and that you will be willing to vote for me.**

Thank you for taking the time to read my election address.

If you have any thoughts, comments, or questions, then please don't hesitate to contact me either by my email **rbastable@gmail.com** or by telephone **020 8749 7523**.

Please pray for me and for all those standing for election.

With my prayers for you,

**Richard Bastable**