

CHRISTOPHER TRUNDLE

*Vicar of Our Most Holy Redeemer
and St Mark's, Clerkenwell*

Nominated by Paul Thomas
Vicar of St James, Paddington

Seconded by Peter Anthony
Vicar of All Saints, Margaret Street



ABOUT ME: I am Vicar of two parishes of differing traditions in the Stepney Episcopal Area, having served previously in Tottenham and Pimlico, and am also an Army Reserve chaplain. I served in the last General Synod, and I'm an elected member of the Diocesan Synod and Stepney Area Council. I'm married to Lucy, a university lecturer, and we have two young children. I live and minister in Clerkenwell, an area in which, like much of our Diocese, the gap between rich and poor continues to widen rapidly. I'm passionate about the mission of the local church, ministry among young people, and encouraging vocations to ordained ministry. As the effects of COVID-19 continue to be felt, I believe the Church has a responsibility not only to serve the vulnerable but to proclaim our faith at a time when many need and want to hear it: this is a moment for advance, not retreat.

SOME KEY ISSUES FOR THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

- The recent crisis has shown that our parish churches, rooted in their communities and aware of their contexts, remain effective units of mission and ministry. Parish clergy should be *and feel* well-supported.
- I welcome increasing realism about spending and giving at national and diocesan levels. We need to ensure that plans for a financially challenging future do not adversely affect our ministry to the poorest communities, and continue to cherish our diverse traditions, patterns of ministry and our polity.
- Greater transparency is needed to allay concern that liturgical and sacramental expressions of church life are underrepresented in projects supported by the Strategic Development Fund. Criteria and measures used may not easily map onto more catholic forms of mission and ministry, and given that this unprecedented funding is for the flourishing of the whole church, work needs to be done to make sure it is widely applied.
- LLF is a much-needed process which depends on our generous and sensitive engagement. There has never been a time when these issues have been more important in wider society as well as in the church, and we must engage pastorally and theologically: the process is not yet over. I come to this conversation affirming the Church's existing teaching on marriage.
- Addressing the decline in engagement with young people must be a priority for the whole Church; we need to see more sacramental and liturgical approaches to youth ministry.
- Ordained ministry, which is central to our Church's life, charism and heritage, should be well-resourced, and Synod must strive to preserve excellent formation for ordinands, including residential training.
- Good partnership between SSM and stipendiary clergy will be needed more than ever to ensure the best deployment of gifts and skills.
- The proposed reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure is a positive step, and the next Synod will need to carefully scrutinise proposals to ensure a disciplinary framework which is appropriate, but which avoids the terrible treatment of clergy we have become all too familiar with.
- Safeguarding remains a crucial area which dioceses and central church institutions still seem to struggle to get right. Synod must continue to hold these bodies to account.

Thank you for taking the time to read this address. I am committed to actively representing the Clergy of the Diocese in General Synod. There are many other issues for General Synod to consider than those above; if you would like to get in touch, my email address is vicar@holyredeemerclerkenwell.com. I would be grateful of your support with your first preference vote.