Robert Thompson
Vicar of St Mary’s Kilburn & St James’ West Hampstead
Proposed by: Jarel Robinson-Brown; Assistant Curate, St Botolph’s Aldgate
Seconded by: Jess Swift, Vicar St Ann’s Tottenham

About me:
• The Church of England’s diversity has facilitated by own journey of faith with Jesus from a conservative Evangelical context into a ‘(post-) liberal, evangelical, Catholic,’ with broad liturgical sympathies
• Having served my title at St Martin’s Ruislip with its deep, Catholic spirituality I am passionate about people finding spiritual discipline/structure and parishes committed to numerical growth as part of mission
• Having served as a hospital chaplain for 18 years, working with HTB curates and volunteers, I am passionate about pastoral care and confidence in the Holy Spirit and charismatic renewal
• Serving as Vicar of a Black majority parish with a debt advice service, post office, coffee shop and children’s soft play centre, I am passionate about creative, parochial mission
• Working in an area of deprivation with strong Catholic, Jewish and Muslim communities, I am passionate about joint community work to address poverty and the climate crisis
• Being a gay man, in committed relationship, and serving a really diverse parish, I am passionate about inclusion, celebrating difference, equity and justice

Key priorities of the Church of England:
I am standing to help grow a diverse and Inclusive Church, to
Save the Parish as the primary location of mission, to
Strengthen Safeguarding and Clergy Wellbeing and to
Reform the Episcopacy in order to rebalance and check power

1) Building an Inclusive & Diverse Church: I would support in Synod legislation brought forward to:
• admit all people to all ministries, and marriage, on equal terms, whilst providing for those who in conscience cannot accept this
• address the lives of all people on equal terms by providing for advocates and chaplaincies that will enable us, across all our differences, to flourish and live in unity
• implement safeguarding assessments/transparency statements outlining theological positions and the pastoral care that women & LGBTQIA+ people, in particular, may expect
2) Saving the Parish’s primacy in a Mission-Shaped Church: I support the aims and objectives of Save the Parish and in addition to their aims would also work in Synod to bring forward legislation that would:
• develop collaborative mission-shaped/pioneering initiatives within the context of the parish as the primary missional unit that are not created in competition to them
• scrap BMOs which are increasingly given without the consent of local people in particular parishes and are detrimental to the wellbeing of parochial clergy and people
• reform the structures of DACs which at present prioritise historical considerations in relation to building development over missional and liturgical renewal

3) Setting up independent Safeguarding and CDM structures/processes: I would advocate in ongoing Synodical work and debates to:
• support the mandatory reporting of all safeguarding concerns to local authorities
• make safeguarding oversight independent of the church to ensure that we are complying with the best practice expected within our society
• make the CDM process/structure independent of the Episcopacy since the missional, pastoral and judicial vocations of bishops are at present in conflict

4) Supporting the clergy and reforming the Episcopacy: I would seek to bring forward work and legislation in Synod in order to:
• initiate proactive, professional, structured and regular supervision for all clergy to aid well-being, and our effectiveness in leading mission
• make the appointment and the work of bishops more open, transparent and, at least partly, democratic, including the publication of minutes of meetings and voting records
• address the lack of scrutiny of episcopal power and decision making by considering strengthening the roles of elected lay and clerical members of diocesan synods

Thanks & my support of Fiona Jack
Many thanks for reading this statement. I am committed to actively representing Clergy of the Diocese in General Synod from right across our traditions. There are many other issues that Synod will consider in the next 5 years than just those above; if you would like to contact me by email I am very happy to respond to any questions you may have:

vicaragekilburn@btopenworld.com

If you do choose to give me your first preference vote I recommend that you cast your second preference for Fiona Jack who I am supporting.