Rev’d Jonathan MacNeaney
Associate Vicar, All Saint’s Fulham

Affirming Catholicism Trustee

- We promote the positive, inclusive and joyful currents in the Catholic tradition of Christianity.
- We prepare a briefing paper before each General Synod which is circulated to the Affirming Catholics in Synod group (ACiS). This is the grouping of inclusive catholic Christians on synod.
- This year I led a series of national discussion groups on Living in Love and Faith.

Inclusive Candidate

- I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.

General Synod Experience

- I was ordained in Chelmsford in 2013 where from 2015-2017 I sat on General Synod. In 2017 I moved to serve in London Diocese and, as required, resigned my place on synod.
- I took part in General Synod’s Shared Conversations in Human Sexuality. These formed the groundwork to the current Living in Love and Faith material.

The Parish

- I believe that the purpose of the Church is: to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ; to make disciples; to pray; to break bread together; to care for the sick and those who are oppressed; and to allow ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit in God’s work of transforming people’s lives.
- Synod must support this ministry by careful financial scrutiny and investment of resources to the areas most in need, ensuring local parochial ministry for all.

The Wider Church

- Assistant area director of ordinands for Kensington episcopal area.
- A practicing, trained spiritual director.

I am committed to liberal catholic principles and dedicated to kindness towards those with whom I disagree. I love God and I love the Church of England. I want the Church to declare the love that God has for all people in Jesus Christ. **If you would like me to represent you on General Synod then I would urge you to give me your first preference vote.**
Issues for this Synod

Environment

- Environmental pressure must be brought on those organisations in which the church invests.
- Churches must be equipped to encourage sacrificial discipleship in response to the climate crisis
- This year Affirming Catholicism hosted an evening on *Catholic approaches to the integrity of creation*

Historic Abuse and Safeguarding

- Significant advances have been made. Justice and transparency for every survivor and victim must continue to be pursued whilst maintaining fairness for those facing accusations.
- Synod can hold the national church institutions to account on this and make sure this costly but vital work is adequately funded.

Living in Love and Faith

- I will seek to be an imaginative, sensitive and confident voice for an inclusive church.
- I will work towards a church that can bless all the expressions of love of its people.

Ethnicity

- Actions contained within the Archbishops’ Racial Justice Commission must be enacted not filed.
- This year Affirming Catholicism hosted an evening on *Race, racism and reparations* led by Ven. Rosemarie Mallett.
- Our priority must be a visibly diverse leadership in the church, representative of its worshippers.

Gender

- I support the work of Women and the Church (WATCH) at General Synod.
- We need to continue to work towards proportional representation of women in stipendiary and senior leadership roles, whilst focussing on young women’s vocations.

Theological Training

- Residential training needs to be safeguarded against the cost-cutting attraction of non-residential pathways.
- As a serving assistant area director of ordinands I am connected to the experience of current candidates.
- Candidates need to be drawn from a wider background. A number of our candidates are part of the Peter Stream. A programme for those who have sensed a call to ordained church leadership, but have felt themselves, for whatever reason, excluded from the process of discernment, selection or training.
- This year I launched a series of podcasts interviewing ordinands and licensed lay ministers in training who are supported by Affirming Catholicism.
If you would like to discuss further any matters arising from this address then please contact me:
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