

Dear Elector,

My name is Peter Sinclair, 29, and I am a new candidate for the 2021 General Synod elections.

I work in film, for The Pitch Film Fund, a project that connects filmmakers with the creative potential of scripture.

I am passionate about the Church engaging with the Arts, youth work, and sharing the beauty of Christian faith with others.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. I would be delighted to answer any questions you may have by email or phone.

*In Christ,
Peter*

**PETER SINCLAIR, LONDON DIOCESE
HOUSE OF LAITY CANDIDATE 2021**

Proposer - Clive Richard Scowen | Seconder - Jane Elizabeth Jellis



This is me and my wife Imogen, on holiday in Argyll, Scotland.

My Background

I grew up in the Midlands, and then the North West, where I benefitted from a range of ministries. As a teen I attended Holy Trinity Coventry, with its historic Doom Painting and choral Evensong. I was fortunate enough to be part of the choir, which even included a trip to sing in Notre Dame. My time in Coventry deepened my appreciation for the heritage of Anglicanism. In Aston, Birmingham, I experienced the rootedness of the parish system at The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, where I was baptised. Known as 'Aston Parish Church', the worship reflected the vibrancy and diversity of the local community, united in Christian fellowship. I've also attended Anglican churches in Manchester, Birkenhead and Hull, so have seen churches operate in a range of contexts; centred around liturgical practice, Holy Communion, and the telling of Christ's story from the pulpit.

Currently, Imogen and I worship at Inspire Saint James Clerkenwell, an evangelical parish church with a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) for the Old Street area. I also serve as a member of London Diocesan Synod.

We live in Bethnal Green, next to Victoria Park, which has been a blessing during lockdown, allowing us to venture outside of our small flat. My hobbies include frequent trips to the cinema, less frequent runs, and very frequent drinks with friends. Lockdown has been challenging, so I am looking forward to resuming some of those activities as some form of normality is restored, most of all seeing others.

Relevant Experience

- **Mixed-Economy Ministry:** I worked as a member of staff at Inspire Saint James Clerkenwell. Whilst on the team I experienced a mixed-economy ministry (a Parish with a BMO) firsthand. This served to reinforce my belief in the strength of the parish system as part of the fabric of local communities. This was particularly evident at our weekly youth group 'Friday Night Lights' which was a drop in for children from local schools. At the same time I saw the benefit of having innovative ministries that could connect

with more transient workers. In 2018, I helped produce a week of events, where professionals in creative industries and Tech talked about their faith. These conversations were recorded and distributed online, with the aim of reaching Clerkenwell's creative workers.

- **Creative Mission:** During my time working for Inspire Saint James Clerkenwell I produced video resources including a Christmas video that the Diocese of London encouraged for use across the diocese. My passion to connect those unfamiliar with the Christian faith has continued in my current job working with filmmakers. The Pitch Film Fund is a project which demonstrates that the arts are a natural starting point for discussions about faith. I would like to spur on the Church of England to invest in creative ways of engaging the nation with faith.
- **A passion for youth:** Building the next generation of the Church is one of the biggest challenges of the next quinquennium. From my ten years of leading with various youth ministries I have seen how valuable it can be for young people to have space to ask honest questions which can be met with the powerful combination of sharing lives, as well as speaking truth. As a still relatively young person I know that it can often feel like young people are spoken 'about' rather than 'to' - in our strategy as well as ministry, we must become conversation partners with young voices.

Why I want to serve on General Synod

The Church of England is experiencing a period of deep reflection and questioning - how to preserve valuable, unique and beautiful aspects of our tradition; the desperate need to address the decline of youth engagement; addressing historic divides which had grieved Christ and damaged witness; pressing questions around human sexuality and walking together. The list goes on.

There are no easy solutions to any of the problems that we face and it is easy to feel despair. I feel convicted that I want to be part of stepping into the conversation, rather than retreating. I bring a younger perspective, both my own and through my engagement with even younger people, who are deprived the opportunity of growing up with the Christian story. I believe Christian faith still offers the hope that our world in all its brokenness needs and I am committed to helping our Church communicate that afresh to this new generation. As a storyteller I want to commit to bringing the voices of the young to debate in Synod and to use effective communication to help us have confidence in our ongoing mission to make disciples.

This can be done in hope, because the God who is with us is wise:

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs, Chapter 2, Verse 6

In Summary

I would be honoured to serve on General Synod. Whilst my personal conviction is evangelical, and I hold traditional views, I am also a believer in the power of sharing stories. I am committed to listening to others in Synod, as we seek to walk together, and hope that my experience and perspective will be valuable to others. My commitment if I am elected:

- To serve, where I can, with what gifts I have.
- To lift up the needs of the church in prayer.
- To be available for your thoughts or questions regarding Synod, by phone or email.
- To commit enough time and energy to execute the role faithfully.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. And please would you give me your first, second or third preference vote.