

Alexander Rayner

Candidate for General Synod

I grew up in Hertfordshire and have lived in London for nearly ten years. I am 34 years old and work as a civil servant. I currently lead a team in DEFRA responsible for negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement with Australia.



I was not brought up in an especially religious household, but found myself moved by curiosity about faith, which crystallised while I was a graduate student and has grown over the years through baptism, confirmation and involvement in the life of Pusey House in Oxford and then St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge, where I am currently Head Server and Deanery Synod representative.

Why am I standing for General Synod?

- I have sat on the City of London Deanery Synod and Standing Committee since 2017.
- I would like General Synod to be more visible and engage more with the grassroots, including a new, younger generation.
- Worshipping alongside people of many backgrounds in a vibrant Anglo-Catholic church community in the City, I advocate a church that embraces diversity and new members.
- In my working life, I lead negotiations which are often heated and fraught with politics and so I have to find common ground and solutions to challenging problems. These are skills I would like to put to use in support of the life of the Church.
- The Covid-19 pandemic continues to represent a major challenge. The Church of England struggled to articulate its purpose during the early days of the pandemic and many churches now face serious and ongoing financial trouble. My own church has adapted to these circumstances and done much to revitalise its life. I would like to see this kind of renewal in the wider church and support other churches as they recover.
- I want to promote the true mission of the Church, standing for what we believe in: love, charity, justice, truth, peace and holiness.

Please consider voting for me if you are looking for:

- A candidate that is prepared to listen to others regardless of their background.
- A church committed to mutual flourishing and respect for different traditions, while defending the integrity of the sacraments and giving proper reverence to scripture, tradition and reason.
- A General Synod that is open and transparent. If elected, I will report on upcoming work and my activities in General Synod and seek to draw the laity into its activity.
- A candidate that would support the parish system and seek to learn from each other rather than simply legislate or dictate; and someone who will seek to focus attention and resources in support of parishes and vocations.
- Someone who will encourage the Church of England to look outwards, be bold in its public statements, confront an increasingly secular world and promote ecumenism.

Contact: This is the first time that I have stood for General Synod, and I very much want to listen to others, whatever their background. Please feel free to get in touch with me:

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