

# GERARD HARGREAVES

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Nominated by:

William Salomon, Kensington Deanery Synod

Kunle Barbarinde, Kensington Deanery Synod

I am standing for election to the General Synod as a life-long member of the Church of England. I have lived, worked and attended churches in this country and overseas. I currently live in Central London and am member of St John's Church, Notting Hill where I have recently completed six years as Church Warden. I am a member of Kensington Deanery Synod and London Diocesan Synod.

I am the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and have been an elected Councillor in the Borough for 11 years.

In standing for election, I recognise that the General Synod faces a many key challenges that it will need to address during the next five years. Within this there are three specific areas that I would highlight and wish to make a contribution to if I am elected.



**A Local Church: Putting Parishes at the centre.** For the majority, their worship begins and ends at the local parish church. Parish churches are at the centre of community life. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has shown again the importance of parish life in supporting communities. We need to protect and enhance our parish network. This means

ensuring that central and diocesan resources are directed to the front line of the church's ministry.



**An International Church: Supporting Persecuted Christians around the World.** As Christians we have a role in promoting our faith internationally and protecting persecuted Christians wherever they are. The Bishop of Truro's Review of Persecuted Christians spoke of 240 million Christians suffering high levels of persecution in the world. As a

church nationally we need to keep this in the public and government's awareness. Internationally the Anglican Church should use its representation at the UN, Commonwealth and other international organisations to highlight this issue.

At a local level we need to ensure that our churches are welcoming homes and offer practical help for those who have fled persecution. Coming from a parish with a relatively high number of refugees and asylum seekers I know how important our welcome and inclusion is to them and their communities



**A Confident Church:** I believe that our church should champion its place in the public square at every level as part of the fabric of our society. Practically, this means that we need to ensure that our major institutions like Universities, Armed Forces, Central and Local government have a strong and visible faith representation.

Whilst highlighting these three specific issues I recognise that there are many others that General Synod will need to tackle in the next Five years. These include issues within the church like Living in Love and Faith, attractive a more diverse membership and rebuilding after COVID-19. We also need to play our part in addressing national issues, including poverty, homelessness, hate crime and modern slavery.

Thank you for reading my election address. If you believe in a strong General Synod that both challenges and supports all that we do as a church, please give me your first or high preference vote.

GERARD HARGREAVES



If you would like to speak to me or raise any issues, please contact me on 07973 324889 or email: [gerard@gerardhargreaves.com](mailto:gerard@gerardhargreaves.com)