

Julian Duffus election address for general synod election 2021

Let me tell a little about myself so you can see whether you will be able to support me in the upcoming election. My parents were Scottish who worshiped in the Church of Scotland. The dynamic is slightly different with the laity taking if anything a more deeply responsible role than their counterparts in England

My time at boarding school exposed me to the liturgy of the Anglican Church with its beauty and yearly cycles of reading and worship.

I was confirmed into the Church of England as a student and have found a spiritual home there ever since.

I believe very strongly that our church should be as inclusive as possible welcoming to all.

Sexual orientation, should not preclude people from being fully engaged in our worship and churches. To understand our scriptures we should be aware of their context and what they taught people in that time

We should not place artificial barriers in the way of people following their calling whether it's as priest, lay workers or bishops. We should embrace lay members of ethnic minorities in areas of leadership and raise their confidence about stepping forward.

I also regard our custody of our planet as an important responsibility for us as Christians. Our churches should be in the lead of Green behaviour and sustainable running.

Now I've had a bit of experience in synodical activities having served as the lay chair of Ealing Deanery synod for over 10 years. I have also had experience as a foundation governor of Twyford Church of England high school. That is a beacon of Christian education in West London. Through my involvement as a lay chair I enjoyed attending section 12 meetings to support parishes in their search for new priests. I've always regarded the role of being a supportive friend to our clergy.

I've put up a short YouTube piece about what I think is important for our church. Just type my name into the search box and you'll see me in person.

Please keep me in your prayers that if elected I am granted the wisdom and energy to fully contribute to our general synod.

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