

# Paul Faithfull

## Candidate for General Synod

### About me

I am 57 years old and have worked in business development for the past 25 years and thoroughly enjoy my current role working for London's largest mortgage brokerage. I get to meet many different people across the UK and have built strong, long-lasting relationships and friendships. It is also a very rewarding role, especially when helping young people buy their first property.

The Church has always played a very significant part in my life. Both my parents were committed Christians and I attend churches in the Anglican Catholic tradition in London..

Although an only child, I have been surrounded by other family members who share my Christian faith. My wife is a commissioned lay hospital chaplain. My aunty was one of the first women ordained into the priesthood in 1994. My son-in-law was one of the youngest ordinands at Wycliffe theological college in Oxford and at age 26 he is now in his final year of his first curacy. His mother is a non-stipendiary priest, and my mother also held a senior position in the Mothers' Union.

I feel very fortunate to have so many good role models in helping me to develop my Christian faith, as well as having the privilege of experiencing different styles of worship.

Until recently I was a commissioned lay minister at my local church, where I led the Sunday school with my wife for many years. I also started a messy church, which was great fun, and which was popular with many from outside the church. I have also volunteered for 3 Messy Cathedrals held at St Paul's helping the Diocesan Children's Ministry Team.

I was the chairman of the PCC during the last interregnum, and tried to encourage everyone to feel involved. I adopted an open culture, making sure that there were regular and clear communications so that worshippers felt fully engaged. I try to inspire my colleagues at work and my fellow Christians by my gentle and thoughtful style of leadership.

I am a good communicator and public speaker and have an extensive network of professional contacts and church friends across the UK. I am an avid follower of most sports and enjoy live music. I have appeared on a couple of TV quiz shows which was good fun.



## General Synod

I recognise that the Church now faces some huge challenges. The strength of the Church is its diversity. However, as we have seen in the past, this can also bring with it difficulties associated with divergent points of view on various issues.

I am pleased that members of the General Synod are able to agree to disagree, and that provision has been made so that all clergy feel included regardless of their views.

I want to be part of a General Synod that continues to unify, to respect all viewpoints and to work together for the greater good. The Church must strive to do this, and if cannot be seen to do this, it will leave itself open to criticism and ridicule.

I would very much like the opportunity to be able to make a positive contribution to the General Synod. I am passionate that the General Synod helps the Church be able to regain its voice, and place within society.

The Church needs to be proactive and offer a positive, compassionate contribution, and tackle some of the challenges which I have already alluded to. They include:

- Combatting the rise of secularism in society.
- Helping our fellow Christians who are persecuted for their faith.
- Tackling homelessness and poverty, both here in London and in the rest of our country.
- Assisting churches in taking an active role within their local communities.
- Proclaiming the Gospel in an inclusive, loving way so that the Church grows.

## Contacting me

Please do feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any points about my candidacy. My email address is **Paul.Faithfull@ccameron.co.uk**



## Conclusion

Thank you for reading this address. If you feel that, on your behalf, I could make a difference, **please give me your first vote or a high preference, vote.**

My prayers are with all candidates standing for election.