Rev Sally Baily (MBA, MA Christians Studies)  
Vicar of Holy Trinity Hounslow (from 7th Sept 2021)

Previously: Team Vicar St Margaret’s Edgware 2016-21  
Curate: St Mary’s Great Chesham, Bucks. 2013-16  
Training: Trinity College, Bristol 2011-13

Proposed by: Henry Kendal, St Barnabas Woodside Pk  
Seconded by: Father Joseph Gabor, St Augustine Grahame Park

I am married to Hammad Baily who is a Pakistani Christian worship leader. We lived in Pakistan 2006-08 working as itinerant worship leaders. I advocate for persecuted Christians and understand what it feels like to experience the pressure of intolerance towards one’s race, faith and gender. I’ve been exploring the issue of ‘white privilege’ and leadership culture in the UK Church. I support UKME candidates discerning their vocation and several ordinands in training to plant other language congregations.

My experience in synodical & diocesan structures hasn’t put me off standing for General Synod. It has taught me the value of engaging with the decision making bodies of the church. For example:

- As Sub Dean for West Barnet Deanery Synod 2018-2021; Working with +Edmonton to raise awareness of the issue of Gun and Knife Crime. This resulted in a resolution from Deanery Synod to Diocesan Synod and finally debate in General Synod.

If elected I would seek to represent the views of all clergy in London on General Synod. I support the diversity of churchmanship within the Church of England, valuing the beauty of BCP liturgy, as well as Common Worship and contemporary styles; services of the word and services of Holy Communion, both pointing beyond us to the God who redeems and restores.

I believe the parish system is an essential part of God’s plan to build His kingdom and new church plants can benefit from working closely with parish churches. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few – parishes – yes AND church plants.

Prior to training for the ministry, I had an 18 year career at the London Stock Exchange, culminating in a position on the senior management team. My experience is valuable when considering the financial challenges facing the national church post COVID and the need for ethical investments.

Mission to the local community has been a particular focus for me during COVID19 lockdown. For example:
• the recently transformed churchyard became an outdoor sanctuary for local residents who have no gardens, hosting events & community displays of hope.
• The Make Lunch@St Margaret’s Club, designed to fill the holiday hunger gap, was expanded to offer regular food parcels, delivered to families in need during lockdown.
• The church became the first Community Testing Centre in the Borough of Barnet offering lateral flow tests to the community; now a Community Collection Hub for home test kits.
These initiatives helped demonstrate the church’s relevance in society—expressing God’s love and hope through practical help during the COVID19 pandemic and as we recover.

Clergy Discipline Measure: Having contributed to the Sheldon Surveys on clergy discipline and well-being, I’m keen to help shape the new CDM so that clergy are not left suffering and unsupported when things go wrong.

Living in Love and Faith: As disciples of Christ, we are called to love one another and work together collaboratively as we fulfil God’s mission. LLF is a process that facilitates dialogue on a sensitive issue. I believe we can be a compassionate, caring, welcoming church without changing the boundaries on marriage as set out in scripture. I have attended Bridge Builders training to prepare me to navigate difference with grace and truth, finding solutions that help everyone flourish with integrity.

On General synod I would serve with a clarity of thinking and missional mind-set, together with a compassionate heart for all God’s people.

I am a member of the New Wine and London Diocesan Evangelical Networks.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions please email me. Please consider giving me a high priority vote. Remember there are 11 seats on General Synod for London Clergy.

Sally Baily
sally@hthounslow.org.uk
Dear Elector,

My name is Richard Bastable. I am 38 years old and have been the vicar of St Luke, Uxbridge Road in Shepherds Bush for the last eight years. This year I’m taking on the additional role of Priest-in-Charge of St Matthew’s, Sinclair Road.

I was ordained in 2008 and have served all my ministry in the Diocese of London. I have also served on Diocesan Synod, as Chapter Clerk for the Deanery of Hammersmith & Fulham, and as a Vocations Adviser.

For me, parish ministry is a thing of great joy. I love gathering with God’s people at the altar, preaching the gospel, baptising, preparing for confirmation, conducting marriages, ministering to the sick, praying with the dying, comforting the bereaved, and commending the departed to God.

I love forming new links in our community, sharing ideas for mission with my PCC, devising ways to support local charities, engaging with young people, offering teaching series, encouraging people to pray, to read, and to engage with their faith.

I know that ministry can be frustrating and sometimes lonely. Sometimes it feels as if the burden of administration is increasing, as if money is scarce and fundraising takes time and energy away from other, more priestly activities, as if many of the day-to-day tasks seem to bear little resemblance to the inspiring training I received.

It is as if other forms of ministry, and indeed other forms of church, are championed more from the centre and as if hopes for colleagues to support an active parish mission seem to depend more on money and form-filling than they do on growth, potential, or need.

The Christian faith saves souls and transforms communities. I am standing for election to General Synod because I believe the Church of England, at its best, embodies the identity and actions that necessarily flow from this, and I want to ensure that we don’t lose sight of that.

In the last two years we have witnessed extraordinary circumstances which have exposed gaps between the experiences on the ground in the parishes and the words and actions of the hierarchy.
I believe we need to be attentive to our parishes, our parishioners, and our parish priests. If elected to General Synod, I will advocate:

- Adequate support for parish ministry including the prioritisation of resources to ensure there that parish priests are able to delight in their ministry.

- Meaningful reviews of the church’s structures so that reform where necessary can release funds to support ministry in our parishes and priests to serve in them.

- Refreshing of our identity from the foundational sources of the Scriptures, the Creeds, the teachings of the Fathers and the Councils of the church.

- Prioritisation of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable in our mission to ensure those from parishes that experience deprivation are able to live the Magnificat.

- Encouraging vocations to ministry, both lay and ordained, and ensuring adequate support for that ministry, including cherishing stipendiary ministry in parishes.

- An escape from the faddish nature of many mission initiatives, new visions and strategies, and to refocus on the church’s core priorities and identity.

- The use of wisdom and insight where it can be found outside the church, whilst always ensuring our reasoning and practices are deeply informed by the gospels.

- The importance of ensuring that clergy discipline and safeguarding are properly and sensitively handled, and that current processes are appropriately reformed.

- Faithfulness to the church’s identity in the practice of the sacraments, particularly in relation to Holy Matrimony and the seal of Confession.

I am standing for General Synod to promote these causes and because I believe fervently in the Christian faith, in the church, and in the Church of England. I hope you share my aspirations and that you will be willing to vote for me.

Thank you for taking the time to read my election address.

If you have any thoughts, comments, or questions, then please don’t hesitate to contact me either by my email rbastable@gmail.com or by telephone 020 8749 7523.

Please pray for me and for all those standing for election.

With my prayers for you,

Richard Bastable
Fr Edmund ('Mund) Cargill Thompson  
Vicar St Barnabas Northolt Park

I am an inclusive Anglo-Catholic Charismatic passionate about evangelism.

I have been ordained in the Church of England for 21 years serving in different parts of Greater London across both London and Chelmsford Diocese. Before I was ordained I was a Chartered Accountant. I am Vice Rector (Evangelism) of the Society of Catholic Priests, and a Trustee of On Fire Mission.

My inspirations include 19th Century priests like Father Lowther of St London Docks who took the gospel to the unchurched working classes in the cholera infested slums of the east end; St Dominic who spent all night up in a pub, seeking to win over the inn keeper from Catharism to Christianity (the number of pints drunk is unrecorded by history); and St Francis Xavier, who, whilst European Christians were busy fighting each other over their differences, was busy preaching about Jesus to people in far flung places who had never even heard of him.

I am passionate about evangelism. Bums on seats matter because bums are attached to people and people matter. This should not be seen as a crude measure of success. Our contexts are different. Hill farms are vital for preserving the hill country yet they don’t produce the same yields as the super fertile flatlands of the American Midwest. In the same way with churches. My ancestor Henry Williams went a missionary to the Maori in 1823. It took him two years to see a single convert and another five years to see his second one. Had he stayed in England he would have been far more numerically successful. But the Maori church would not have been birthed. We should praise people for working in difficult contexts, not blame them for not being as numerically successful as those working in easier contexts.

Same Sex Marriage
As someone who is passionate about evangelism, I believe that our current stance on sexuality is not just theologically wrong, but is putting people off Jesus. I used to be a conservative on this and I respect my conservative colleagues. I have no wish to unchurch them. But I would urge the Church of England to follow the Gamaliel test of Acts 5:38-40 “if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” Let those of us who wish to marry same sex couples do so. Let my colleagues who are in committed same sex relationships have them recognised as marriages. If we are wrong then we shall become a footnote in history. If we are right, then our openness to people of all sexualities will help us win back this nation for Jesus.
This is not the only time we have got it wrong on weddings. In 1995 the government changed the law so Civil weddings could be conducted in beautiful “approved venues” rather than drab registry offices. Almost overnight the number of church weddings fell: From two thirds of first time marriages being church weddings before the change, to two thirds being civil weddings. We have missed a trick by insisting church weddings are held in church buildings. I would propose we go for the Scottish or American model where the church comes to the couple rather than the couple coming to church.

Paradoxically I am both passionate about Church Planting and support many of the objectives of the Save The Parish movement. The problem is not parishes nor plants but Parkinson’s law – true of the Church as much of every other institution – the ever expanding growth of the centre.

I believe Bishop Richard Chartres right to have us plant 100 new worshipping communities. I wish more of those plants would come from the Catholic and Sacramental traditions, and I recognise that those of us in the Catholic parts of the Church of England need to take more responsibility for making that happen.

With the Save the Parish movement – I agree on many specific policies but especially on pensions. As a result of a financial crisis, from 1998 onwards the Church Commissioners stopped covering cost of pensions, leading to a hike in parish share. The Commissioners funds have more than recovered and are now very healthy. There are lots of exciting new projects Synod could spend that surplus money on, but before they adopt any new projects, first they need to take back their responsibility to fund pensions. In the post pandemic world this cut in Common Fund could make the difference for many parishes between being financially viable and not being so.

Personal Policy – Divorced Clergy. For many years the CofE has provided “Bishop’s Visitors” to support the divorcing spouses of clergy, but no similar support is provided to the clergy person. As with the (awful) CDM process the Bishop gives up their role of pastoral support because they are the line manager and “neutral arbitrator”. This can lead to serious consequences for clergy in terms of both finances, access to their children and job security, because they do not get the same quality of advice as the Church pays for for their ex spouse. I would bring forward a private members bill for the church to provide Bishops Visitors for the divorcing clergy as well as for their ex spouse.

Remember to use your whole vote
Some of you will wish to give me your first choice vote (thank you). Others may find me not quite conservative enough or not quite liberal enough. Or not quite Catholic or not quite Charismatic enough. You like what I have to say but someone else gets your first vote. I will say the same thing every other Synod Candidate will be saying to you: General Synod is by transferable vote, so please remember to rank all the candidates (including me). The higher you can rank me the better but wherever you vote for me in your ordering of the candidates: thank you for your vote. If elected I will do best to serve you and the diocese. If you want to ask me anything, my email is father.edmund@gmail.com or my WhatsApp 07908949166
The Revd. Jon Carter  
Candidate for House of Clergy

Address: 479a Liverpool Road, Islington, London, N7 8PG  
D.O.B.: 07/11/1988 | 32 years old  
Contact: jonjcarter@me.com | 07920 044101

Proposer: The Venerable Adam Atkinson  
Archdeacon of Charing Cross  
Seconder: The Revd. Anna Evans  
Curate of St. John the Baptist, Hampton Wick

I am seeking your first preference vote to serve General Synod over the coming five years. I am determined to seek and serve our Church of England in this nation:

- United around the person of Jesus  
- Serving the most vulnerable in society  
- Inspiring the next generation of disciples

As our society emerges from these past two years and seeks to rebuild, I believe the Church of England has a unique and powerful opportunity to model a family of hope centered on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, to communicate the love of Jesus in word and deed as we serve those who are struggling most from this pandemic, and to invest in the future as we creatively empower the rising generation.

About Me

I am Associate Leader and Curate at King’s Cross Church (KXC), based in central London. I am married to Jo - a trainee Clinical Psychologist in the NHS - and we have two wonderful girls aged 1 and 3. As Associate Leader of KXC, I help lead a growing church in King’s Cross, itself made up predominantly of those in their 20s and 30s. We hope to be a community of courage, compassion and creativity: seeking to empower followers of Jesus Christ to be confident of the story of which we are all a part, compassionate in how we serve those with most need, and creative in what it means to be a community of hope as a church family.

I am a member of the London Diocesan Synod and part of a hospital chaplaincy team in East London serving as a bank chaplain. I am a trustee of several charities, including Growing Hope, which provides free therapy for children and young people with additional needs in partnership with churches across the nation.

Prior to a call to ordination, I worked for several years as a People & Strategy Consultant at Deloitte, with a particular specialism in organisational culture and HR vision and strategy, holding ACA and CIMA qualifications.

Why Am I Standing?

I am passionate about the Church of England, longing to see it grow and lead as we begin to emerge from this global pandemic. In particular, I am seeking to serve General Synod as we enter a crucial opportunity around the following areas:
UNITY: to seek and serve the church united around the person of Jesus

- Encouraging a diverse, broad church, rooted in local communities through the beauty and power of the parish system, as well as creative expressions of pioneering communities. Modelling discourse within the church that celebrates this diversity, seeks to be curious of others’ convictions, and exhibits a counter-cultural conversation of care and kindness; particularly as we continue the LLF conversations and process.

- Why me: having spent significant time as part of the Anglican church, the Salvation Army, and the Vineyard church, I am passionate about the breadth and diversity of the church, and the role that each part must play in the wider unfolding story of God’s church. Holding a diverse set of traditions and charisms, I believe I am well-placed to advocate and speak into a broad, yet united church.

SERVICE: to seek and serve the church serving the most vulnerable in society

- Leading and modelling what it looks like to be a body and community of hope to a hurting and broken world. Continuing and deepening conversations around racial justice within the Church of England, advocating for more meaningful change and impact. Urging and resourcing the Church of England to be a societal leader tackling climate change over this quinquennium. Resourcing projects seeking to serve local communities on the ground more effectively and using the power of the national church to connect and co-ordinate in times of crisis.

- Why me: having led compassion ministries at KXC for several years, I have extensive experience of leading local ministries, as well as co-ordinating with local partnerships on the ground in a local context. I am a trustee of a national charity - Growing Hope - which has given insight into the power of church and charity partnership. I lead the racial justice core team at KXC and am part of a local hospital chaplaincy team.

INSPIRATION: to seek and serve the Church inspiring the next generation of disciples

- Investing in and nurturing the next generation of disciples and leaders, by empowering and appropriately resourcing churches and co-ordinated networks nationally. Shared learning and storytelling nationally about the ongoing and inspiring work in schools, with youth and student ministries. Releasing creative leadership by partnering with innovative youth ministries nationally, equipping youth leaders locally.

- Why me: having led growing student ministries for several years, I am passionate about the investment needed nationally to capture the imagination of an upcoming generation. I lead a discipleship and leadership year aimed at investing in the next generation of leaders within and outside of the church. I am a dad of young children, who sees and feels the need for greater investment in the youngest within the church.

I live with high levels of hope for the church in this nation, faith that God in His kindness will continue to advance His Kingdom, and expectation that over these coming years we can play our part in serving God’s purposes across this land. My experience both within and outside of the church means that I believe I have something to offer in General Synod, and would truly value your prayers, consideration and vote should you agree.

Thank you again for reading, and as always, please reach out should you have any questions or queries; I would love to hear from you. I would appreciate your prayers as these coming weeks unfold, and I join my prayers with yours as we together serve God’s people.

God bless,

Revd. Jon Carter
Firstly, thank you for electing me to the General Synod at the last by-election in 2020. It was a privilege to serve you in this way and I hope this address may persuade you to vote for me once again this time around for the full quinquennium of the Synod.

In Michaelmas this year, I will be celebrating 20 years of priesthood; currently Priest in Charge of St Mark’s and St Stephen’s Bush Hill Park in the Enfield Deanery. I am also the Edmonton Episcopal Area Director of Mission and Racial Justice and a Non-Executive Church Commissioner, serving on the Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee (MPCPC).

I am married to Princess, a Lay Reader and Chartered Accountant heading the technical finance team at the London Fire Service. We are blessed with five children, three boys and two girls. Before my appointment in 2007 as Vicar of Harmondsworth for thirteen and half years, I served my first title at a West London Estate parish followed by an Associate Priest post in a semi-urban and rural team ministry in the diocese of St Alban’s.

Prior to ordination, I trained as an Electrical Engineer. I attained Chartered Engineer and Chartered Manager status about 10 years ago having worked for 25 years in the Public Sector, the Oil & Gas sector and for the past 5 years as a consultant, delivering major change projects, including Siemens-Crossrail and Network Rail-Great Western Electrification projects, CB&I SCPx project, Shell Onegas project.

In my spare time, I am carrying out academic research work at London School of Theology (Middlesex University) looking at “the influence of secularisation on diaspora Christian culture – using London as a case study”. My interest on the topic was kindled following a successful church plant that targeted strategic return of diaspora African Anglicans (Igbo speaking Nigerians) in the UK to the Church of England.

1. I feel I can contribute with GRACE & TRUTH in the debates around:
   - **Ongoing Vision and Strategy of the Church of England and saving our Parish Core Face** – my extensive experience in rural, suburban and urban parishes, means I am well placed to understand a variety of parish contexts and the pressures each are under currently, both as we come out of lockdown and the longer-term financial issues.
   - **Financial Stress that we must deal with and role of Self-Supporting Ministers (SSMs) in the mixed-economy model of ministry and vocations.** As a former SSM myself, I am able to raise these matters from a position of knowledge and broaden our understanding of vocation in the church.
   - **LLF** – I long for us as a church to see each other first not as ‘others’ but as all made in God’s image and so to relate with grace and respect in these discussions. We must too in all humility bring God’s truth to bear in our discussions.
Environment and Climate change – my service in the parish of Harmondsworth meant we saw in detail the social cost of environmental issues with the debates on a third runway at Heathrow.

Housing – I have served in both an estate ministry context - and understand many of the pressures on housing that brings - and in a parish under threat of demolition near Heathrow.

Revised Clergy Disciplinary Measure

2. I am also passionate about how the Church identifies, train and resources leaders for the current and future challenges with a special focus on developing servant-leadership and strategy. Over the past 16 years, I have mentored 14 young people and all of them have taken the path of ordination in the Church of England.

3. Also, the Black Lives Matter movement has presented afresh ongoing issues of diversity within the Church of England and having successfully led a team of clergy recently to deliver “the Service of Lamentation and Hope” online, I have enough evidence that suggests that, if a marginal area exists, between two dominant centres, it can include both centres and become a new core. Since I have already experienced suffering and alienation as a marginalised group in the Church of England (both as former SSM and UK Minority Ethnic clergy), I have an advantage to understand situations of diversity and hopefully I am better placed to raise and support motions that will seek to aid and enable the dominant culture (the Church of England) to connect with other marginalised groups within its systems while at the same time offering the Church credible opportunities that will help find a solution to escape from her difficulties.

All of this needs to happen in the context of a church bruised as it emerges from the pandemic. I trust, in the strength that only the Lord can give, that together we will be able to work to build on new contacts made and rebuild contacts lost. As we partner together serving the Lord Jesus in this nation, may we find joy in our service and sustenance in God’s word and at the Lord’s table.

I hope I have been able to persuade you to vote for me! Please consider giving me your first, second or third preference vote. My contact details are above, and I will be delighted to hear from you whether now, or if elected, with any issues you may need to raise.

God Bless

Revd Prebendary Dr Amatu Onundu Christian-Iwuagwu
I would like to offer myself to serve the Diocese of London and the wider Church for election to General Synod.

I have always had an interest in Politics in the broader sense of the word meaning an interest in the “affairs of the city”, and others consider me suitable for the role due to my diplomacy skills and ability to see other people’s perspective and work out suitable solutions by taking into account all views.

As a black man who was brought up in a white family, I am a strong illustration of what it is to be of mixed ecology, so have spent my life seeing situations from multiple angles, which I believe could help me be a real asset to the wider Church, especially as we seek to increase our diversity.

OVERVIEW

CURRENT POST: Member of the Clergy Team at St Barnabas Church, Woodside Park, Edmonton Area since 2019

Pre-Ordination: Ran my own Marketing Agency in Hertfordshire for 25 years.

Family: Married to Andrea, who received an MBE two years ago for her work in Charity for Children with Special needs where she still works. Two adult boys. We live in Hendon and are all keen fitness fanatics, I recently cycled London to Brighton, raising more than £4500 for Charity and Andrea is about to do her first half marathon.

What Others Say About Adrian

Proposer: Revd Mike Pavlou, Vicar of Oakleigh Church

“Adrian is a man of great compassion & integrity. He has great vision, energy and a passion for making the Gospel known and accessible. The thought of him being on Synod fills me with excitement.”

Seconder: Revd Colin Brookes, Associate Vicar, St Lukes, Camden

“In the 25 years I have known Adrian I have found him to be a Christian Leader of extraordinary integrity, compassion and courage. His ability to connect strategic detail with Mission leaves me excited at the thought of him serving on General Synod.”
Candidate for General Synod  
Revd Adrian Clarke

My Stance on Key Issues Facing The Church At This Time.

The C Of E – A safe place
As someone who was abused at a boarding school in the 1970’s and was subsequently helped to get freed from the abuse by a Vicar, I have encountered first hand the pain of abuse and the power of Clergy to be the saving grace for people, I am passionate about seeing the Church of England be that place of safety and restoration for the vulnerable.

Financial stress
As someone who’s run a business for 25 years, I am experienced at creative solutions to help an organisation run with restricted budgets, so would look to contribute into this area of need.

Climate Change
Climate Change is constantly in the news and it’s important for the Anglican Church to lead the way in helping to save this planet for the next generation.

Ethical Investments
We need to ensure that the church holds investments with integrity, balanced by being good stewards with the gifts God has given us.

Racial Equality
As a black man I have encountered racism many, many times and would like to play a pivotal role in raising the racial equality within the Church. As a member of St Barnabas, we are one of the most diverse Churches in the Church of England today and I’d love one day to see the Church fully represent the truly Global diversity present within the London area & nationally today.

Living in Love and Faith
Whether we like it or not we need to recognise this is a difficult and serious debate the Church needs to have. I hold the traditional view of marriage but recognise the pain caused by this debate so it needs to be a conversation based around sensitive and genuine listening and caring for others of differing views.

Vision and Strategy
I am a passionate defender of the Church of England maintaining a “Broad Church” approach, recognising that for the mission of the Church to be successful the Anglican Church needs to be a Church of all flavours & expressions.

I hope I can count on your primary vote and if you have any questions please feel free to call me on 07485 177778 or email me on adrianclarke@stbarnabas.co.uk.

Thanks for taking the time to read this address.

Rev Adrian Clarke
I believe the Church of England has its best years ahead, but we need wisdom, humility and courage as we listen to the voice of God guiding us through the complex and challenging years before us. We will need to respond to significant financial pressures, navigate the huge complexity of our diverse views on marriage and turn back years of numerical decline.

The General Synod needs members who will stand for unity; support our archbishops in their agenda of prayer, evangelism and reconciliation; and pursue an outward-looking, positive agenda. I hope to offer courage, creativity and commitment to see the whole Church flourish under God, for His glory and for the sake of our nation.

About me

- Served on General Synod 2010-2015
- Member of London Diocesan Synod
- Caleb Stream Chaplain – a national accelerated ordination pathway for local ordained ministry, resourcing the clergy shortage in areas of most need
- Serving on the clergy team at Holy Trinity Brompton since 2016
- I grew up in a vicarage in Hertfordshire and took two gap years with Church Army before studying physics at the University of Nottingham. I trained at Ridley Hall, Cambridge (2013-2016).
- I met my wife, Rhiannon, when we were teenagers and we married nine years ago while at University. We now have two beautiful children, Toby (2 years old) and Tilly (3 months old). Rhiannon works as Quality Improvement Lead at Great Ormond Street Hospital.
- I love music and it has been great to get back to live performances post-lockdown. I play guitar and trumpet. We love good food - and even better when it’s shared with good friends!

Areas of interest

Young people

When I served as the youngest member of General Synod (2010-2015), I put myself forward to be a voice for young people in the Church of England. This has been a long-term passion and commitment for me since I came to faith myself as a teenager through local church youth work. Aged 20, I chaired the Regeneration Summit which gathered 50 bishops, including the two archbishops, to listen to 150 young people share their experiences and views on how the Church can more effectively reach their generation. I co-founded an award-winning online discipleship resource for young people, The Bridge, with a built-in feedback mechanism designed to feed their perspectives into wider Church decision-making. I have had the privilege of seven years in student ministry including, during the pandemic, pioneering a wellbeing project, Well, to reach isolated and struggling students across London. Eleven years after I was first a member of General Synod, I am still just as passionate about seeing the Church of England reaching, serving and empowering the emerging generation.
Resourcing mission and ministry

The local church is God’s chosen vessel to minister to His world and, through the parish system, we are privileged to have a presence in every community. As we face financial pressures, we need creative solutions to resource mission and ministry at the parish level. This will include releasing lay ministry, to see the whole church exercising their gifts, and encouraging more into ordained ministry. As Caleb Stream Chaplain, I am working to see accelerated numbers of clergy ordained and deployed, particularly to resource those parishes that do not have a focal minister. As the Church, we carry good news that the nation needs to hear. We need a Synod that will value the richness of our inherited church and creatively resource mission and ministry at the parish level.

Emerging church

The pandemic has changed life forever and we must continue to respond to changing patterns in the ways people engage with church and faith. The Church of England must continue to support those churches finding it challenging to navigate this new space, and also lead in innovative mission as we respond to new opportunities. Through the pandemic, the Church’s practical care for those in need became particularly visible: a clear expression of the love of God. We united and served together in new ways. We must build on this and continue serving our communities.

Renewal of church structures

As outlined in the recent report from the Governance Review Group, the General Synod is in need of reform to meet the needs of the future church and reflect our vision for the 2020s. I have been passionate about church structures from a young age (I know that’s unusual!) and my call to ordination came hand in hand with a sense of call to serve the structures of the Church of England. It is vital for the health of the Church that we get this right, and I would consider it a privilege to serve at General Synod and help shape governance structures that are dynamic and fit for resourcing the ministry on the ground today. We must think creatively about the future while holding to our traditions and wisdom of the past. Even more so in our post-pandemic world.

In my teenage years, God gave me a deep love and passion for the Church of England. I value it’s breadth and, if elected to General Synod, I will listen carefully to the diversity of voices and stand for unity in Christ. When serving on Synod previously, I prayed before every vote, ‘Lord, how would you have me vote?’ I commit to do the same if you choose to elect me for another quinquennium.

I would consider it a huge privilege to serve again at General Synod and would be so grateful for your support with your first preference vote.

Rev’d Sam Follett
sam.follett@htb.org
07974 217670
The Reverend Lis (Elisabeth) Goddard  
Vicar of St James the Less Westminster  
E: lis.goddard@sjtl.org  
T: 07795432553

Proposed by: The Revd. Tim Stilwell – St Dionis, Parsons Green
Seconded by: The Revd Tamsin Merchant – St Mary’s, Hornsey Rise

- On General Synod since September 2020
- Member of London Diocesan Synod
- St Margaret’s Deanery and on Deanery Standing Committee
- Bishop’s Assessor for Ordinands and MDR reviewer
- Member of the planning group for the London National Estates Churches Conference 2019 and 2020
- Chair of The Junia Network (formally AWESOME – a network for ordained Anglican women Evangelicals)
- Member of Archbishop of Canterbury’s Transformations Steering Group (TSG) and TRIG (The House of Bishops’ Transformations Research and Implementation Group)
- Co-Chair, Trustee and Council Member of CEEC (Church of England Evangelical Council)

If you re-elect me to represent London Diocese on General Synod, I will bring wide ranging experience which I believe will help me to contribute effectively to the challenges which will face this Synod. The child of an East London vicarage, I love the Church of England. I am passionate about seeing people come to Jesus and grow in their faith, and this will inform all that I do and say.

In summary I am committed to:

Developing a workable and coherent vision and strategy for the church, both local and national, in the 21st Century

A Church which is younger and more diverse

Making space for the most vulnerable within our churches and our structures

Making good upon our 2030 commitment to be carbon-neutral as a church

Reform of the CDM and development of appropriate policies to protect clergy as well as laity from bullying and harassment

Theological education and formation – with particular concern for women

The Living in Love and Faith process

In more detail this means:

**Developing a workable and coherent vision and strategy for the church, both local and national.** As the Synod is called to engage with the work led by the Archbishop of York, there is a need for clarity in thinking, being aware of what the long-term consequences might be of decisions made now. I bring a deep commitment to our parochial heritage, knowing that there are whole swathes of our country and cities which we won’t reach if we abandon this significant gift. Coupled with that I have a willingness and excitement to see new expressions or modes of outreach and church developed to reach those who are deeply unchurched, for whom community does not operate upon traditional lines.

It is vital if we are to have a long-term future that we engage creatively with the call to become a **church which is younger and more diverse.** I have had the privilege of establishing a detached youth trust working across Pimlico, in partnership with other church leaders, reaching out to the most vulnerable young people on the edges of our community. We need to be looking creatively at how we connect with those who are most at risk in our communities with hope and serving the most vulnerable. I believe passionately that we are to be a church where all are called and all are used, whatever their background, race, colour or education. I love leading a multi-ethnic congregation where everyone finds a place and where we seek to develop a vision together of how we are called to discipleship in every part of our lives. I am therefore deeply committed to the work of ‘Setting God’s People
Free’ but also, as a theological educator, I’m very aware of the importance of solid training and formation for those in leadership. I think that we have a challenge to release our clergy from all that binds them and stops them from doing what they are trained to do. I think that resources should be put in so that clergy can be set free to be a transforming, releasing factor for the laity and the mission of God in this country.

**Making space for the most vulnerable within our churches and our structures** is a key concern for me. Of particular importance is ensuring the proper funding and resourcing of estates ministry, acknowledging that the weakest are the ones most often forgotten by those with the power and the money. This will mean challenging the allocation of central resources primarily to already resource-rich Resource Churches who often look to their own rather than resourcing the wider church. Alongside this I have a real passion for those with serious mental health conditions, ministering in a church with a high level of mental-ill health among the congregation, fringe and parish. I anticipate contributing on debates around how we respond to the rise in serious mental ill-health through the pandemic.

**Making good upon our 2030 commitment to be carbon-neutral as a church.** The last Synod made this pledge and it will be vital that the coming Synod holds to it. This will mean facing the challenges of our historic buildings head on and potentially leading the way in radical decisions on the use of carbon-neutral technologies on heritage sites. As the vicar of a grade 1-listed church in central London where we have already taken significant steps to being carbon-neutral and are working hard to find new ways to address this challenge, I believe that I will have much to contribute to this debate.

**Reform of the CDM and development of appropriate policies to protect clergy as well as laity from bullying and harassment.** It is no secret that the Clergy Discipline Measure is not fit for purpose and the Synod has started the process of reform which will be completed in this coming Quinquennium. As serious as this issue, is the impact of badly handled non-CDM complaints upon clergy, as we have tragically seen recently in London Diocese. Alongside this, we have totally inadequate policies and procedures to deal with the significant issue of the bullying and harassment of clergy. ‘Dignity at Work’ the standard policy document used throughout the C of E is seriously outdated. In the July Synod I asked a question around this area, and I commit to work for adequate provision for the protection of both clergy and laity, building on the work I have been doing on this through the Transformations Steering Group, aware that, according to Unite, significantly more clergywomen than men are subject to bullying within the workplace.

**Theological education and formation:** I have been a theological educator, particularly in ministerial formation, including mission and spirituality. This continues to be an important interest for me, and I would expect to engage in any debate around the education and formation of ordinands. I am still engaged mentoring fellow clergy and ordinands. I have led through my work with Junia and TSG on developing Young Female Vocations events and pushing for a National Family Friendly Policy.

As someone who holds the traditional view on human sexuality, I am committed to the Living in Love and Faith Process. I hope that through these discussions we will be able to learn more about each other and find an honest way forward which enables all of us to flourish and God’s mission to go forward in England in a way that honours Him. I look forward to participating in this important discernment process within General Synod if re-elected.

I believe that I still have a lot to bring to General Synod and have so far enjoyed my experience of representing London Diocese there. I am committed to serving all the electorate and to being accountable.

I therefore ask that you put me first, or high up in the ballot.

Thank you.
Name: Revd Al Gordon  
Address: Hackney Church House,  
1 Prodigal Square, London, E8 1FX  
Age: 44  
Email: al@saint.church

Proposer: Revd Prebendary Rosemia Brown  
Seconder: Revd Andrew Wilson

I am standing to represent you at General Synod as a positive and encouraging voice seeking to champion unity and hope. I believe in the flourishing of the whole of the Church of England, and believe these are vital and exciting days to communicate the love of God to all people, and call people home to worship Jesus Christ.

ABOUT ME

- I serve as Rector of the parish of Hackney, and lead a group of collaborating parishes across east London called SAINT.
- I’m married to Olivia, an architect, and we have three children and a puppy.
- I did not come from a church-going family, and came to faith in Christ as a teenager.
- Prior to serving in full-time ministry, I worked in the British film industry.
- I co-founded Worship Central, and am a trustee of Charity: Water and Alpha International.

WHY AM I STANDING?

- I’m standing to champion young people. The Church of England has been home since I came to faith as a teenager. I love the breadth of our expressions of worship and our calling to serve every single person in the nation. I am passionate that young people should feel at home in the life of the Church of England.

- I’m standing to champion worship. I’ve served as a worship leader at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) for a decade, where I was ordained and served my curacy, and also have a deep love for high church worship. I believe that the worship of Jesus Christ is central to our life as a community.

- I’m standing to champion diversity. As a parish priest in Hackney, I’ve fought hard to encourage people from diverse backgrounds to become the future of the Church of England. Over half of those currently we’re seeing train for the priesthood from our parish are from minority ethnic backgrounds. I want to see greater representation in the Church of England.
MY INTERESTS

• I believe passionately that what unites us is greater than what divides us, and I’m interested in promoting a positive and unifying agenda at General Synod.

• I’m interested in innovative models of parish-based church growth that draw on our rich heritage and embrace fresh approaches to mission. In Hackney, we’ve started a brewery and an apiary. We have also partnered with a leading restaurant to feed those without a home. Since the start of the pandemic we’ve fed over 400,000 meals to the vulnerable. I want to encourage creativity and courage.

• I believe that the best days of the Church of England lie ahead of us if we are faithful to our calling to serve people in every parish and place in this nation, and I will work to encourage the resourcing of a vibrant Christian presence in the local communities we serve. I am firmly committed to growing our missional and pastoral presence at a parish level.

• I’m interested in the financing and sustainability of our church buildings, having led a £6m restoration of our parish church building, St John at Hackney. I would like to see the Church of England explore innovative new models for securing the future of our places of worship, as well as playing our part in responding to the housing crisis.

• I’ve served as a member of the Archbishop’s Evangelism Task Group, and am passionate coming to faith in Christ and becoming rooted in local parish churches.

WHAT CAN I OFFER?

I would offer a fresh and hopeful approach to General Synod, encouraging a generous and respectful openness to understanding different perspectives and a strong sense that our unity is vital to our witness as Christians.

I would pursue a fresh and entrepreneurial approach to parish ministry that champions the growth of every expression of the Church of England. In the group of parishes that I serve, we’ve experimented with different approaches, and seen regular attendance grow fourfold in the space of a few years. I’m proud that growth has happened in both our sacramental expressions of worship as well as in our informal worship settings. I would hope to bring this experience of generous and positive church growth to General Synod.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I would be grateful if you might consider lending your support to me with your first preference vote, and your prayers!
Having served my title in Windsor in the Diocese of Oxford, I have been a London vicar since 2018. I have served as a member of Diocesan Synod and the Bishop’s Council, and am Assistant Director of Ordinands in the Two Cities area.

The next few years of General Synod have an opportunity to make positive change in the life, presence and work of the Church. Society is seen as increasingly secular and materialist, while searching aimlessly for its lost sense of purpose and meaning. Our opportunity and responsibility as a church, is to re-form, in order to better draw society toward the knowledge of the love of God. That re-formation must include a bolstering and re-invigoration of the parish system, not its undermining or starvation of resources.

A parish is not a mere administrative boundary, and it certainly isn’t a membership club. At its heart is a dedicated priest, responsible and accountable for the care of all in the parish, irrespective of merit, belief or belonging. The role of a priest as carer, pastor, advocate, spiritual guide, and moral leader is crucial to thriving communities. It cannot be de-skilled, outsourced, or re-defined as some sort of religious manager.

It is tragically clear from recent events that clergy wellbeing is increasingly under strain. While the failings of the current CDM system are at last under some scrutiny, more needs to be done. An urgent and extensive overhaul is required before it can be fit for purpose. At present it fails to either support high professional standards or to give fair protection from vexatious or unfounded complaints.

Our priests are charged with the pastoral care of all, and yet receive scant or inconsistent pastoral care themselves. This needs to change. The mental wellbeing of clergy and lay ministers needs to be paramount, with a formalised and consistently implemented support structure. Unless we are pastored by loving shepherds, we cannot be healthy enough to pastor others.

Working as an ADO has given me an increased awareness of the richness of the variety of vocations that God calls us to. We need to celebrate and affirm lay, self-supporting and diaconal vocations with as much energy and resource as we affirm stipendiary priestly vocations. We are each called to minister in a unique and distinctive way. When lay, self-supporting and diaconal vocations are treated as lesser, we denigrate the God-given nature of vocation itself and squander resources and talent.

As a member of Inclusive Church, I am passionate about inclusion and the God-given diversity we find and celebrate within our shared humanity. I believe that marriage should be available to all as a blessing of a committed, faithful and lifelong relationship. I support the Living in Love and Faith process and hope that it will lead to a better understanding of varying theological positions. I pray the process will eventually make room for a position which allows priests to act under their own conscience, much as we now treat the remarriage of those whose previous marriage has been dissolved.

I actively welcome your questions. Please feel free to contact me on vicar@stmarks.london I will be very grateful if you would consider me for your first or second preference vote.
Mthr. Fiona Jack
Standing for LGBTQ+ Inclusion in the Church of England

Nominated by: Mthr. Carol Barrett Ford, Vicar, St. Martin’s, Gospel Oak
Seconded by: Rev’d. Dr. John Seymour, Interim priest, St. Lawrence, Eastcote

Why vote for me?

First and foremost, I want to stand up for greater LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Church of England. I am bisexual, have a gay son and a bi daughter. Living in Love and Faith is due to be discussed in the next Synod, so we need clergy who identify as LGBTQ+ to be present. There should be no discussion about us - without us. If you care about LGBTQ+ inclusion and equal marriage, please show this by giving your first preference vote to an LGBTQ+ candidate.

About me

I serve as Curate at St. Barnabas Church, an Anglo Catholic parish in Ealing. I am single, with two grown-up children. As a woman from a catholic background, I represent a liberal progressive tradition.

Originally from South Yorkshire, after university I moved to London where I’ve lived ever since. A cradle Anglican, my first experience was in a middle of road, rural parish. I trained for ministry at Sarum College, and as part of my training, I undertook a transformational placement in Johannesburg including a spell in a township church.

Before ordination, I have run (and continue to do so part-time) my own strategic research and marketing consultancy for over 20 years. My professional experience brings skills such as independence of judgement, the ability to weigh up arguments, and a capacity to express complex ideas with clarity. In my secular life I was Vice Chair of a Professional Standards Committee, tasked with overseeing and adjudicating claims of misconduct and developing best practice guidelines.

I am not a one-issue candidate: here are some priorities:

- I wholeheartedly support the parish and ordained and sacramental ministry. I am in favour of equipping and training priests, deacons and ordinands from all walks of life, especially those from BAME or other minority groups. A visible Christian presence in every community is of paramount importance. A clerical collar enables doors to be opened and conversations to be started. ‘Being with’ people in our local communities is a powerful witness, which we water down at our peril.

- I believe in a gospel of radical hospitality irrespective of age, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexual orientation, whilst respecting those who hold a position contrary to my own. I am an experienced reconciler and builder of community. I would like to see a Church where all are genuinely welcome at our Lord’s table, and where all feel respected for who they are and
can express their God-given identity. I have walked alongside those who believe in God with all their heart and who have been rejected by the Church because of their sexual orientation. It’s high time to address this matter.

- **Mission is of prime importance.** The Church should be confident in its calling to preach the gospel and to **reverse the decline in numbers, especially amongst young people**. I would like to see a broadening of approaches to youth and children’s ministry to allow them, through sacrament and liturgy, to experience the mystery and transcendence of God. (I preside at a weekly Eucharist for the under 5s and their parents). We must also seek to build on the success of online worship during Covid 19 and its potential to access a new audience, whilst appreciating the importance of gathering in person.

- **Protecting the integrity of creation and caring for the planet; understanding our place in the universe is vital.** Enabling and encouraging participation in the Eco church scheme to assist the Diocese of London to achieve its target of being carbon neutral by 2030. We are in this together and each parish and individual must play their part in reversing climate change.

- **Social justice – practising what we preach and living out the gospel in action** by working to **build liveable communities through a culture of encouragement and action**, with a particular focus on the ever-widening social and economic divides in our country. Many churches have been at the epicentre of dealing with issues exacerbated by the pandemic - people turned to us in their need and we responded. We should not lose that impetus and continue to build on the good-will we have engendered during this national and international crisis. The fact that parishes understand their local contexts means that they are particularly well-placed to meet this need.

- **Grasping the nettle of sustainable finances to protect and safeguard our traditions**, whilst evolving into an **organisation fit for the challenges of the modern world**. Finances follow people of course, so we are back to mission.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss any of the above: fionajack@barnabites.net

Mobile: 07780 704720

I hope that you will consider giving me your first preference vote. I would also encourage you to give a high preference vote to Fr. Robert Thompson, another LGBTQ+ priest and a strong voice for inclusion.
Experience

- I am CEO of the Church Revitalisation Trust (CRT) where I work with clergy and dioceses across the country supporting renewal of parish churches.

- I sit on the Board of St Paul's Theological College and have worked closely with the London Diocese in encouraging increased diversity in ordination candidates through co-sponsoring the “Peter’s Stream” of training focused on raising up priests from underrepresented socio-economic and diverse ethnic backgrounds.

- I serve as a curate at HTB St Paul’s Onslow Square, pastoring services reaching a wide demographic including families, youth and young people in their 20s.

- For the previous three years I helped lead the community at HTB St Augustine’s Queen’s Gate, which worships in the Anglo Catholic tradition.

- Prior to that, I worked as a Student Pastor, Operations Director and as part of a planting team in 2000 to help relaunch a church threatened with closure.

Background

I am married to Tom, a priest, who runs a charity tackling youth unemployment and a Bishop’s Advisor for Community Regeneration. We have three teenage daughters who keep us grounded and a lockdown puppy called Wilber. Prior to ordination I lived in Africa for two years and founded an Interior Design Company based in London.

I believe with my experience, I can bring a positive contribution to General Synod debates in a number of areas including:

A deep experience of and commitment to supporting Parish ministry

Working through CRT with parishes of all different contexts across England, I have seen at first hand both the opportunities and challenges local parishes face. I am committed to generous orthodoxy and believe we need every expression of the church to flourish if we are to reach our nation with the hope of the gospel. As our nation faces division on multiple levels, the church has an opportunity to model and champion unity and collaboration.

Championing social transformation and justice

I co-founded ‘Love Your Neighbour’ a nationwide church response to the needs exposed by the pandemic. LYN has partnered with every denomination across the UK represented in 2,300 local churches and charities working together to tackle issues of food poverty, debt, addiction, unemployment, homelessness and the mental health struggles caused by extended periods of isolation and trauma.

Restoring and Re-Ordering Church Buildings

I have experience in church re-ordering and extension projects. I have worked closely in partnership with DACs, Local Councils, Historic England and heritage bodies. I am committed to the strategic stewardship of church property and buildings in order to honor their legacy while serving 21C mission.

Reaching the Younger unchurched generation

As a mother of three teenagers, former Chair of Governors of a Church of England primary school and overseeing youth-centred Sunday services, I am committed to finding innovative ways to reach the younger generation with the gospel while engaging with issues they are passionate about such as climate change, inequality and injustice.

I hope I might count on your support as you prayerfully consider your vote.

With every blessing,

Sarah Jackson
Affirming Catholicism Trustee

- We promote the positive, inclusive and joyful currents in the Catholic tradition of Christianity.
- We prepare a briefing paper before each General Synod which is circulated to the Affirming Catholics in Synod group (ACiS). This is the grouping of inclusive catholic Christians on synod.
- This year I led a series of national discussion groups on Living in Love and Faith.

Inclusive Candidate

- I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.

General Synod Experience

- I was ordained in Chelmsford in 2013 where from 2015-2017 I sat on General Synod. In 2017 I moved to serve in London Diocese and, as required, resigned my place on synod.
- I took part in General Synod’s Shared Conversations in Human Sexuality. These formed the groundwork to the current Living in Love and Faith material.

The Parish

- I believe that the purpose of the Church is: to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ; to make disciples; to pray; to break bread together; to care for the sick and those who are oppressed; and to allow ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit in God’s work of transforming people’s lives.
- Synod must support this ministry by careful financial scrutiny and investment of resources to the areas most in need, ensuring local parochial ministry for all.

The Wider Church

- Assistant area director of ordinands for Kensington episcopal area.
- A practicing, trained spiritual director.

I am committed to liberal catholic principles and dedicated to kindness towards those with whom I disagree. I love God and I love the Church of England. I want the Church to declare the love that God has for all people in Jesus Christ. If you would like me to represent you on General Synod then I would urge you to give me your first preference vote.
Issues for this Synod

Environment

- Environmental pressure must be brought on those organisations in which the church invests.
- Churches must be equipped to encourage sacrificial discipleship in response to the climate crisis
- This year Affirming Catholicism hosted an evening on Catholic approaches to the integrity of creation

Historic Abuse and Safeguarding

- Significant advances have been made. Justice and transparency for every survivor and victim must continue to be pursued whilst maintaining fairness for those facing accusations.
- Synod can hold the national church institutions to account on this and make sure this costly but vital work is adequately funded.

Living in Love and Faith

- I will seek to be an imaginative, sensitive and confident voice for an inclusive church.
- I will work towards a church that can bless all the expressions of love of its people.

Ethnicity

- Actions contained within the Archbishops’ Racial Justice Commission must be enacted not filed.
- This year Affirming Catholicism hosted an evening on Race, racism and reparations led by Ven. Rosemarie Mallett.
- Our priority must be a visibly diverse leadership in the church, representative of its worshippers.

Gender

- I support the work of Women and the Church (WATCH) at General Synod.
- We need to continue to work towards proportional representation of women in stipendiary and senior leadership roles, whilst focussing on young women’s vocations.

Theological Training

- Residential training needs to be safeguarded against the cost-cutting attraction of non-residential pathways.
- As a serving assistant area director of ordinands I am connected to the experience of current candidates.
- Candidates need to be drawn from a wider background. A number of our candidates are part of the Peter Stream. A programme for those who have sensed a call to ordained church leadership, but have felt themselves, for whatever reason, excluded from the process of discernment, selection or training.
- This year I launched a series of podcasts interviewing ordinands and licensed lay ministers in training who are supported by Affirming Catholicism
If you would like to discuss further any matters arising from this address then please contact me:
macneaneyj@gmail.com  07949468905
Candidate: The Reverend Naomi Maxwell: Assistant Curate, St Leonard’s Shoreditch.


Seconder: The Reverend Tracy Browne: Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Isle of Dogs.

A bit about me…
I am a twenty-nine year old woman of Afro-Caribbean heritage, and first felt a calling to ordained ministry at twenty-one. The diocese’ championing of young vocations has been essential to me as I’ve navigated this journey. As the church seeks to be younger and more diverse, it’s important that we support and recognise the contributions that young people can make to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, especially for a generation that is so passionate about social and environmental justice. I also care deeply about honouring different expressions of worship because I have been formed by so many. I was dedicated in the Salvation Army, before attending a High Anglican church as a child, and then a Charismatic Evangelical church after university. As such, I have a real desire for pursuing genuine unity within diversity, recognising that we are all ‘members of the household of God,’ and that part of our witness as the church is tied to our commitment to unity and integrity. This passion has directed further study as the topic of my Masters dissertation, and what in time will likely become a PhD.

My Experience…
As a Londoner, I’m proud to be a part of a Diocese with such a multiplicity of languages, ethnicities, and ages, and believe that the Church is at its best when it humbly displays Jesus’ wide-reaching welcome and hospitality. When good governance, advocacy and faith overlap, amazing initiatives can be created, such as great projects like the Clewer Initiative or community sponsorship. Prior to getting ordained, I worked in parliament and the charity sector. In parliament, I worked as a researcher for the Archbishop of Canterbury, supporting the work of the Lords Spiritual in areas such as refugee advocacy, housing, and foreign affairs. This experience showed me how church and state work collaboratively for the common good and taught me the importance of good governance in all spaces, including the local church. It was also the first time I observed General Synod as it sought to enable and resource the ministry of the wider church. When I later joined my local PCC, I realised that if I wanted to see contextual issues such as racial justice, food poverty or youth empowerment better resourced, I would need to be active and present within these decision-making spaces. Therefore, I want to contribute to the valuable work that Synod does, and to represent the opinions of clergy and laity from across our diocese. As a representative, I would seek to contribute to discussions on empowering young people in ministry, advocating for those on the margins and amplifying the experiences of Minority Anglicans.

In 2018, I participated in the Conference of European Churches, which gathered to promote witness, justice, and hospitality in contemporary Europe. I was encouraged by the collegiate nature of these discussions. The experience of participating in elections, committees, and corporate worship was enriching, and the exposure to a wide variety of contexts, spiritualities and liturgical expressions highlighted our shared commonalities, and the manifold ways in which difference can be learnt from and respected. London is a city of many nationalities, with Christians from all over the world searching for places of worship. As a representative to Synod, I would endeavour to share these learnings and experiences as the Church seeks to offer welcome and fellowship to Christians from a wide array of cultures.

Jesus’ call to love “the least of these” unites each one of us as we say yes to ordained ministry, and so before getting ordained I worked for a domestic abuse charity in East London. This experience demonstrated the importance of strong safeguarding practices, and my role was to advocate and support women and children who are often unseen and live in immediate danger. Working for the charity, which engaged with civic and religious groups, regularly reminded me of the words of James 1:27 ‘Religion that
is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.’ By the time I left the role to begin ordination training, it was full of conviction that good governance and advocacy can empower the church to be a more engaging, accessible, and integral place for the communities that we serve. Whilst I may only be twenty-nine, I am confident that these experiences, and the rich context with which I serve in my parish, and the wider Area of Stepney, would be a positive contribution to discussions about resourcing mission and evangelism within the Church of England. Thank you for reading, and please consider giving me a high preference vote. If you have any questions, please email me at naomi@saint.church.
Luke Miller Archdeacon of London

Proposed by The Venerable Catherine Pickford
Seconded by The Rev’d Nigel Taylor

Please do vote as this election is important. I ask you to give me your first or high preference vote.

Christ’s Church, founded on Him, is His Bride, but in her human aspect she is ever called by Him to proclaim the Gospel afresh in every generation.

The synod we are electing will make fundamental decisions about the Church of England and what it is to be one of her clerics in the next decades. Please give me your first – or high – preference vote as someone who cares about the issues, and who can be effective in contributing positively to the debates.

MY BACKGROUND
As well as being Archdeacon I am Rector of S Andrew by the Wardrobe in the City of London. I have served in parishes in Watford and Tottenham, where I helped plant a Church and helped set up the church of S Francis at the Engine Room Tottenham Hale. I am a traditionalist catholic, living out the Five Guiding Principles: I am married to Jacqui who is SSM Associate Priest at S Peter Eaton Square. We have three sons. If elected this would be my second term on Synod.

The issues this Synod will approach are significant for Christ’s Church and its mission. I believe I have the experience and capacity to contribute effectively, and I ask your first or high preference.

WHAT WILL THE CHURCH BE?
For me the parish is at the heart of the church’s mission. I have written and spoken on how the parish must continue to frame our service of our communities. I have planted and supported church plants, chaplaincies and non parochial ministries. I have used my wide experience of establishing churches with Bishop’s Mission Orders to help get legislation around them right. In our context we need many mutually supporting ministries. Parishes are the foundation and structure, but they cannot and do not do it all.

WHAT WILL A CLERIC BE?
The last session of the last Synod debated the nature of clerical ministry and vocation. We are uncomfortably caught between two visions: clergy as office holders vocationally committed from cradle to grave; or employees with rights and concomitant duties. Called of God in every aspect of life, we are not simply employees – but we need to have structures that work for us all to thrive in our call. This needs work, and the answers are more complex than they first seem.

THE CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE
The reform of the CDM, acknowledged to be bad for those who are trying to complain and bad for those who are responding to complaints, will be a central work of the new Synod. The understanding I bring of the current flawed CDM can help to shape more Godly and effective processes. Clergy discipline is not simply secular discipline – matters such as upholding the seal of the confessional need to be understood. I recently intervened at Synod to clarify that we will work to apply some matters of discipline to lay volunteers as a step towards addressing issues of bullying of clergy.

Do be in contact if you have any questions – luke.miller@london.anglican.org 020 3837 5204
Do be in contact if you have any questions – luke.miller@london.anglican.org 020 3837 5204

DIVERSITY OF OPINION
I am a traditionalist catholic; with the Bishop of London to whom I work directly I seek to model how across our differences we may seek the mutual flourishing of all in the work of the Kingdom. The experience of how diversity of opinion works out in the day to day issues of serving the church is an unusual perspective. (I am one of only two traditionalist archdeacons in the whole Church of England.) Synod desperately needs the direct experience I can bring.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH
I hold a traditional view that the proper field given to us for human sexual relations is within marriage which is for life between a man and a woman. Many disagree with that. Yet we believe that our views are grounded in scripture, upheld by tradition and answer to reason. The LLF process is helping us to learn how to disagree better. It is not designed to bring about a single viewpoint, and there may be difficult debates to come; but they will start from a better place. The experience I bring of diversity in other matters helps me to bring good perspectives to these conversations too.

THE DETAILS MATTER
Too often stuff ‘does not work’. The archidiaconal eye for detail and practical application can help that. Each Synod has a ‘Miscellaneous Provisions Measure.’ It sweeps up little things which can seem technical and tedious. The Tea Room often fills up when the MPM comes to be debated. These details can be significant for day to day life. They are bread and butter for Archdeacons, and I can help try to make sure they do indeed make things better and not – despite good intentions – worse for us all.

THE MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE
This Measure is being reviewed. It defines how parish boundaries can be changed, whether clerics can be ‘dis-appointed’ if parishes are amalgamated, how clergy are appointed in parochial and non-parochial roles. My speech at the initial debate was quoted in summing up as giving good principles: ‘checks and balances but not blockages.’ The danger of sweeping away protections is real; but we do sometimes need to be able to act.

WIDER PERSPECTIVES
Perspectives from my experience your first or high preference vote will mean I can bring to Synod. Ecumenism: I am Chair of the Executive of London Church Leaders which is the main pan-London ecumenical organization. Multi Faith: As London Resilience Faith and Belief Sector lead, I work closely with Faith Forum for London and the London Boroughs Faith Network. Firm commitment to one’s own faith enables close engagement with others in common endeavour. Public Square: Work in the pandemic response has seen an important shift in attitudes to faith & belief perspectives. I have been appointed by the Mayor to the London Recovery Board to help bring this voice to recovery. All this brings a wider perspective to General Synod.

RECORD OF EFFECTIVENESS
In the last Synod I was Chair of the Revision Committee of the legislation on Religious Communities showing that I can contribute to getting legislation right. I have made regular contributions in the chamber and asked questions. I have helped Synod to influence Government legislation – on Covid restrictions on places of worship and the Prevent Duty. Please vote for me, a first or high preference!

Speaking in Synod in Sea Cadet Uniform to draw attention to Chaplaincy
RICHARD MOY

Former General Synod & Standing Committee of House of Clergy
Former Vicar, and now Associate Vicar of Christ Church W4
National Director of SOMA UK
Regional Director New Wine England.
ADDO, Kensington Area.
Former Trustee CPAS

PROPOSED BY: STEVE NEWBOLD (Ealing)
SECONDED BY: GRAHAM HUNTER (Hoxton)

I’m a revivalist, charismatic, evangelical studying Wesley, Whitefield and the HTB network. I’m a convert to the Anglican church who longs to see God’s Kingdom come on earth as in heaven. From travel, history and Scripture I believe it is possible to see the dry bones of the Church of England come back to life. On Synod I would raise hope, speak life and pray, pray, pray for God’s Kingdom to come. I have served effectively on Synod before and would be very grateful for your first preference vote and a second term.

3 reasons to vote for me:

“That we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name”

1. Priority of prayer
Synod needs people of prayer. This is not just because it is a spiritual battle ground, but also because Synod sets the prayers we are authorised to pray in church and which we assent to use. ‘As we pray so we believe’ means that what is written in our liturgy is crucial. I believe God wants me to come on Synod and pray my heart out while also reminding us to hold on to the faith we have received in these amazing bible-based prayers.
Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

2. Clergy Care

I’ve been a curate, incumbent, pioneer minister, diocesan advisor, clergy spouse and a self-supporting minister. Whatever our role, for almost all of us it’s been a gruelling season. It doesn’t help if we feel the national church/dioceses don’t understand what we’re going through. Awareness is needed of what clergy housing can feel like, what it’s like to raise kids on a stipend, the pressures of lone (and lonely) working, how self-supporting ministry can seem taken for granted and how national debates can affect our ministry if conducted noisily or viciously in the public eye.

We clergy took on these roles because we wanted to make Jesus known in our communities, to bind up the broken-hearted and proclaim the good news of the Kingdom. But if we get isolated it is too easy to stumble and fall.

On General Synod I saw how there is an opportunity at Synod for winsome voices to explain what it is like to be licensed clergy, faithfully serving parishes, chaplaincies, with or without a stipend and help those who seem to have power to effectively support our ministries as well as to support us, our loved ones and families.

Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

3. Amplifying good news - to wake up the church

Last time on Synod I successfully led a private members motion and a diocesan motion. I spoke as often as possible to bring good news. My new role with SOMA UK gives me access to some of the most amazing, faith building stories in the Anglican Communion. These give much needed perspective to our national church. One African curate wrote to say he was being deployed hours from his family. Others have had no income in COVID. Some face daily trials and persecution, and yet are faithful to Christ at great personal cost. Stories of faith and hope abound. These are voices we want to ‘be in the room’ when we are making decisions (that have ripples for them too), and examples of faith to learn from when we are tempted to feel despondent here. My strong hope is that God is going to use the hurting and broken parts of the Anglican Communion to awaken the Church of England and I can’t wait to see this happen.

I’d be very grateful for your support and, if possible, your first preference vote in the upcoming elections.

Yours in Him,

Richard Moy
Hello, I’m Mark Murthen, thank you for taking the time to read my election address. I am committed prayerfully and diligently to serve all areas of this church that I love and seek your vote for the opportunity to do so for this quinquennium of the General Synod.

About me
- Married to Lisa with two energetic young children.
- Member of Manchester Diocesan Synod (2016-17)
- Associate Vicar, St James Muswell (2017 onwards)
- Elected to General Synod in 2018 by-election

My experience of General Synod is that there is a vast number of important matters that we need to raise, debate, and legislate for, and I would continue to actively engage in all sessions. However, there are certain issues of critical importance where I believe I contribute at a much deeper level given my life and ministry experience.

Increasing Racial Diversity in the Church of England
I was born and brought up on a council estate in Tottenham but both of my parents came from the island of Mauritius. Growing up I spent time in both the Roman Catholic church and then in a Black Majority Pentecostal Church. Sadly my personal experience has been of less racial diversity in the Church of England than in these other two Christian denominations.

There is a lack of diversity in the leadership structures, both lay and ordained. I have considerable experience helping make a difference in the way we think and act as a church. During my curacy I was trained to lead sessions on Unconscious Bias Training in Manchester Diocese and was privileged to help the Diocesan archdeacons, examining chaplains, and church house staff to think through the implications of our hidden people preferences. I am passionate about people, like me, from ethnic minorities discovering their vocations (lay or ordained) within the Church of England. I also believe in partnering with ‘ethnic minority’ majority churches, where their current practice is more effective than our own ensuring the mutual flourishing of all God’s people.

The whole church, and not just those from minority ethnic backgrounds, needs to act. We must all own the responsibility to ensure that we have a church that fully reflects the racial diversity of our country. One of the proudest moments in my career was not only speaking in the momentous General Synod Windrush debate of February 2019 but knowing that my children were watching at home as history was being made.
If I am elected to General Synod I aim to **hold the church’s leadership accountable for delivering on the Task Force’s From Lament to Action report.**

**Mission to the Unreached**

I am passionate about sharing the good news of Jesus the Saviour in a manner that can be heard and grasped by all. I have experience of living and ministering on large diverse council estates where I experienced so much misunderstanding about Jesus and the church.

We need **creativity and courage to present the truths of our faith** not only to those without any meaningful engagement with the church; but also to build on the excellent work of food banks and valuable support for the poor and marginalised. Whilst Muswell Hill is not an area of deprivation, the community ministry which I help to oversee, has a long history of responding to needs elsewhere in the borough of Haringey.

The church needs also to **consider its mission to the elderly and vulnerable**, in its care for the body and the soul. The tragedy of COVID in the care homes has surely brought to our attention this area of ministry.

It has also been a privilege to be part of a church family **that values inclusive worship with adults and children of mixed ability**. If we truly believe the gospel is for all, regardless of age, background or ability the church must be devoted to making the church a welcoming place for all to experience the love of Christ.

I believe that I have the necessary skills to build relationships across different ages, different church traditions and different denominations and share wisdom and ideas to reach the unreached.

**Rebuilding after the effects of COVID-19**

After the COVID lockdowns of the past two years many churches are feeling fragile. We have missed the joys of gathering physically for corporate worship, sharing the Eucharist, singing hymns, fellowship, and simple hospitality. We recognise that patterns of ministry have changed forever, and we need **wisdom not only to rebuild our work in the parishes, but to do so sustainably for the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of the clergy.**

Whilst I want to encourage new initiatives, it is important that we are realistic about competing demands on the time and energy of our clergy. And coupled with the reality of increasing financial burdens faced by our churches, we may feel overwhelmed with all that we are asked to do. I am keen that as clergy we **regain our confidence in the transforming power of the Gospel** to affect our personal lives, our communities, and our country.

**Contact Me**

There are many other areas that will be of concern this next quinquennium. The areas above are where the experiences God has given me enable me to make a valuable contribution on behalf of us all. Do please contact me if you have any questions about my address or other areas of concern to you. I would love to hear from you.

Thank you very much for reading this and do please consider giving me your first or another high preference vote. God bless you.

Mark
Dear Colleague

I am standing to serve on General Synod for the first time, having now been ordained for twelve years and having served as a Vicar at St Michael’s in Chiswick for ten years.

I believe I have a good understanding of governance in the Church of England and hope I would make a constructive contribution to decision making at General Synod.

I have served as an Evangelism Champion in the Kensington Area for about four years and am committed to mission and Church growth initiatives. At St Michael’s we have a reputation for active and generous community engagement.

I am a Kensington Area Director of Ordinands and am keen to encourage new vocations. I have also served as a member of the Kensington Area Council and as a clergy representative, first for Islington and then for Hounslow, on Diocesan Synod. I am on the Standing Committee of the Hounslow Deanery Synod.

My husband is Peter Oborne, a journalist and author, and we have five children – four of whom are now grown up.

**Previous ministry appointments**

Before my appointment as Vicar at St Michael’s in Chiswick, I was Curate at St Mary Islington. Prior to that, I was an LLM at Christ Church, Highbury.

**Pre-ordination employment and activities**

I had a career in the City working mostly for the investment bank, N.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited on project financings and privatisations and was appointed a main board director. I have also set up and run my own small businesses.

I have published three novels with Piatkus Books and children’s books with Random House and Macmillan.

I helped to set up and arrange the financing of a new-build Church of England school in Islington, St Mary Magdalene Academy, and served as a founder trustee and governor. I have also served as a governor at the community primary school, Grove Park School, in my parish in Chiswick.

**Education and theological training**

I have an MA in Maths from Oxford University and also a theology degree from the University of Kent. I did my training for ordination at the South East Institute for Theological Education. I also have an MA in Children’s Book Illustration from the Anglia Ruskin University.

**Contact details**

revoborne@gmail.com

07805 928584

Thank you for taking the time to read this address and please feel welcome to get in touch, if you have any questions you’d like to ask me.

If elected, I will make every effort to serve you to the best of my ability.
Who am I?

I arrived in the Diocese five years ago after serving my curacy in a parish in the Bradford area of what is now the Diocese of Leeds. I have served as a member of both the Bradford and Leeds Diocesan Synods, as clerk to my Deanery Chapter and as a member of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee. Prior to ordination I lived and worked in the North-East of England, in roles with the youth homelessness charity Centrepoint and with Durham Students’ Union. During this time I was an active member of the community at Durham Cathedral, and spent time in local parish churches of different traditions in Durham, Sunderland and Darlington.

Since moving to London I have been elected to the Diocesan Synod and am an enthusiastic member of my local Deanery Chapter. My parish serves a very diverse part of Brent, itself the most diverse borough in London, and experiences high levels of deprivation coupled with the challenges of serious youth violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and homelessness. I am Vice-Chair of the Governors of our local church primary school which has a very high proportion of children on free school meals. I also chair the trustees of a local grant-making trust and work in close partnership with the Trussell Trust’s Brent Food Bank which operates from a property adjacent to the church. During the first lockdown of 2020 I helped establish and run a regular series of popular online theological seminars called Towers of Faith. I serve as Padre to 406 (Willesden) Squadron Air Training Corps.

I am married to Hannah, who until the end of August has been the full-time carer for our eldest son, Peter (20) and who now serves the parish as an administrator and children’s worker. We have two younger children: Aidan (17) and Catherine (13) and two cats: Augustine and Hilda.

Why am I standing for General Synod?

The Church of England is in my blood! My Father was a Diocesan Secretary for most of his working life, like my grandfather before him. As I was growing up, I experienced the full breadth of traditions from Evangelical to Anglo-Catholic and in between, and the rich diversity that is fundamental to our claim to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. I am
determined to work with enthusiasm across the theological spectrum and articulate a positive vision of a church where everyone is welcome.

As a cancer survivor with profound high-frequency hearing loss, I want to work for the full inclusion of people with disabilities within the life of the church. As someone who has first-hand experience of struggles with mental health, I want to see the Church do more for those of us who have felt the deep stigma and shame these conditions bring.

The reason inclusion and welcome is so important is that the Church of England exists for the whole nation, not just those who attend its services. And at the heart of the way this works is its presence in every community through the parish system.

Parish churches are fundamental to the Church of England’s identity. They are how we connect with local people and our best means of evangelism. They are how we understand God has called us to witness to and serve our nation.

Parishes are spoken of passionately by bishops and senior lay people. Yet it cannot be denied that they have been allowed to wither on the vine due to diocesan policies which have starved them of money and clergy. Parish assets have been taken away and used to fix others’ mistakes.

As a member of General Synod, I would be a passionate advocate for the parish church. I would enthusiastically support our Archbishops in their commitment to the parish system (which Archbishop Cottrell has said should be “revitalised for mission”). I would endorse measures to strengthen parishes by returning money from the centre to the local and resource grass-roots mission and ministry by laity and clergy in their communities. I would oppose reform of the Mission and Pastoral Measure which seek to make it easier for churches to be closed and priests made redundant. I see investment in high quality education and formation as a priority for all those recommended to train for authorised ministry, lay or ordained.

As much as I am committed to the parish as the fundamental unit of the Church of England, I also believe in the importance of the Bishop and the Diocese in serving the local church. The NCIs and dioceses exist to support parishes, and their functions should be limited to areas where they can reduce unnecessary duplication. Efficiency savings would enable a reduction in common fund – setting the parish free to spend more time and money on lay ministry and church growth.

In conclusion:

- I endorse the manifesto of the “Save the Parish” Network.
- I will oppose any change to Canon B30 (which defines Christian marriage)
- I am passionate about diversity and inclusion of minority voices.
- I understand that the different traditions within the church need one another to flourish, and commit to genuinely listening to those with whom I disagree.

Thank you for reading. I would be delighted to answer any questions you have before you cast your vote and would be very grateful for your giving me a high preference vote.
A bit about me
I’m Ryan- I’m 27 years old, from Tooting, South West London. My mum is from Sri Lanka and my dad is from India. I was recently ordained and am offering myself to serve at General Synod.

How I found faith
Growing up not believing in God, after getting a place to study English Literature at St. Johns College, Cambridge, friends of mine shared their faith with me and everything changed. I was a choral scholar and quickly got involved in the chapel community and a local church. After graduating, I became an intern at an Anglican church in Bournemouth, before returning home to London where I worked as a student worker before training for ordination.

Why General Synod?
I’d love to be a part of synod as I’m passionate about my generation discovering the love of God and growing in their own personal faith. Young people aren’t typically known for their church attendance and so I’d love to play a part in showing my generation that God, and the Church, is relevant for them.

Growing up, I didn’t see many people from my background in church leadership and so I’m also passionate about playing my part in helping the Church to reflect the beautiful diversity and unity found in our communities, especially in my hometown of London, and reaching those communities who haven’t yet been reached by the love of God. I long to see ‘every tribe, and every tongue’ worshipping Jesus and local communities touched by the hope found through a relationship with Jesus.

Why me?
I’ve had 5 years of experience working with the ‘missing generation’ of students and young adults, from a diverse range of backgrounds, gaining an understanding of how they connect with God, faith and Church. Studying for my masters degree, I’ve been able to research the biblical theme of unity, focusing on racial unity- which I hope will be of service to the wider Church. Through the person of Jesus, I’ve discovered a God who is deeply kind and loving. Through the Church, I’ve found a community who extends that love to all those around-pouring out the transforming and renewing hope that this world so urgently needs.
I would be honoured to have your first preference vote.
If you have any questions, please do contact me at ryan.rodrigues@htb.org
Revd Charlie Skrine  
Rector All Souls Langham Place  

12 Weymouth Street, W1W 5BY  
0207 580 3522  
charlie.skrine@allsouls.org  

Proposer:  
Revd. Sally Baily  
(Vicar Holy Trinity Hounslow)  

Seconder:  
Revd. Christopher Smith  
(Vicar St. Alban’s Holborn)  

Background  
I was brought up in an inter-church family (my dad was a curate in Sunbury-on-Thames and my mum is a Roman Catholic), and spent my childhood in a mix of Roman Catholic, Anglo Catholic, Evangelical and more Central churches. I’ve settled as an evangelical but I have found my experience helpful in building personal links across the divisions that have played out in Synod. I have been in London Diocese since ordination 18 years ago. I served with a café-based church for those commuting to work near Covent Garden, and in training and leading Christianity Explored courses at St. Helen’s Bishopsgate for those looking into Christian faith. For ten years I was curate with responsibility for student ministry at St. Helen’s, and was also involved in Euston Church (a BMO in South Camden Deanery.) Most recently I was Associate Rector to the long-term church family congregation at St. Helen’s, and also Priest in Charge of St. Michael's Cornhill, a Prayer Book Society parish with a strong choral tradition. In April I moved to start as Rector at All Souls Langham Place.

Other Diocesan Experience  
Diocesan Synod since 2006, and I’ve been involved in London Open House for City Deanery, in the 2012 Ambassadors project, in Pray For 7 as part of Capital Vision, and on the planning group for the London Shared Conversations on Human Sexuality. I have always been excited by the chance to work together to do things none of us could do alone in our parishes. For me, that’s also the reason to be involved in General Synod. I was an ADDO for Two Cities from 2016-2021. It has been a huge privilege helping a wide range of women and men explore their vocation, and such an antidote to Covid misery to be with some of them in person at St. Paul’s for their ordinations this summer.

General Synod Experience  
I was elected in 2015 and have loved getting to know all the people involved from across the country, and the ways in which Synod operates. I have given particular attention to vocations, and to ministry with young people.

Vocations: During the last Synod very major changes were made to the funding of ordination training at TEIs, and the consequences of those changes are only now being felt across the country. Those changes have worked very well in London due to the large number of candidates and the flexible attitude of the Diocesan team. I had serious concerns for the national picture when the changes were introduced, in particular that it would lead to restricted national diversity and to financial challenges for residential training. I want to be present at Synod as we continue to review the consequences, and to hold to account those who made promises at the time.
There has also been a huge, and largely successful, push for more vocations. In the context of newspaper headlines about dioceses making clergy redundant, however, there is real uncertainty about whether that growth can be sustained. It seems likely that clergy retirements will be more significant than any redundancies that do come, and that there remains an urgent need for new, and more diverse, vocations. There are serious challenges, however, around how the money for training and curacies can be found without restricting training opportunities to those ordinands, parishes, or dioceses with financial advantages. I want to be able to push for more central funding, as has been promised, in order to make it possible for the next generation of clergy to be trained in the most suitable TEI for them, and in the best curacy for the needs of the national church.

Ministry with young people: I have become increasingly concerned by the decline in attendance of children and young people, and at the lack of understanding of the national picture. Not only are there far fewer children in church, but they are increasingly concentrated in very few places. I was able to insist on the publication of some of this data, and to push for further work. I am currently part of a steering group at Church House working on some more in depth research.

I was elected to the committee of the Evangelical Group of the General Synod, and also to the Church of England Evangelical Council as one of the representatives from General Synod. I also helped complete the passage of a piece of work that began as a private members motion from London Diocese, including serving on the revision committee, which led to the new, less prescriptive canon on vestments in 2016/2017.

I am a complementarian who is thoroughly committed to the Five Guiding Principles, and was invited by Bishop Sarah to form part of the London Diocese group responding to the national review into their implementation, which was then debated in Synod. I have been particularly keen to build relational bridges across differences of conviction on this and other issues.

**Aims & hopes for this Synod**

Finances: Covid has accelerated the financial challenge facing the Church of England. There is a real risk that decisions will be taken negatively and in haste that will make our problems worse. I think we need to maintain a prayerful confidence in God for the future, along with a conviction that churches can grow, people will come to faith, and young people can be drawn into whole-hearted service of God’s mission in the world.

I am particularly keen to push back at tendencies to centralisation as any changes are made. I was deeply concerned, for example, at the attempt to ban clergy from their churches during the first lockdown. I have acted as a Patron’s representative in small rural parishes since the mid-90s and have seen the dangers of central over-reach against the rights of PCCs and incumbents.

LLF: the only hope for any kind of resolution between those of very different convictions in the church following the end of the LLF process is for everyone to engage graciously, honestly, and without fear. I support the church’s current affirmation of the biblical pattern of chastity and marriage; my background is in involvement with CPAS, Renew and Church Society. On Synod I have sought to build bridges with those on every side of the debate who want to avoid the disastrous litigious splits seen in the Episcopal Church in the USA. I have also been personally and actively involved in challenging homophobia and misunderstanding in my own evangelical circles.

Thank you for reading this; I hope it has given you a sense of where I’m coming from. Please be in touch if you’d like to know more.
Looking back

Colleagues in the Diocese were kind enough to elect me to General Synod in 2015, and I hope and pray that I have been able to make a meaningful contribution over the last six years. I have always been prepared to speak in debates—when I've got something meaningful to say!—and I've contributed to the drafting of legislation through the relevant steering and revision committees, and through the tabling of amendments. I've been elected as a Church Commissioner and appointed a Clergy Discipline Commissioner. So I've been busy, and the substantial majority of the work has not divided along ‘party’ lines. There is a genuine desire on General Synod to pull together for the furtherance of the work and mission of God’s Church.

Looking ahead

There is a sense of coming to a crossroads in the Church of England at the moment, and clergy need advocates who will not only celebrate the positives, but also be watchful of what is coming, and urge caution where appropriate.

The Clergy Discipline Measure is likely to be replaced by a new Clergy Conduct Measure, and forthcoming legislation will need careful scrutiny to avoid replicating the mistakes of its predecessor. Having been on the Commission, and having supported a number of clergy through the system, I want to watch this very closely indeed, and contribute to the process. There is more at stake here than first meets the eye: ‘there is a need to review again the role and nature of ordained ministry’, said the Bishop at Lambeth in his report!
The place of the parish is becoming contested territory. The belief that parish clergy are a block to mission (‘Key limiting factors’ as we have recently been described) is surprisingly pervasive at the moment. We ought to contest this, and will have to do so on a number of fronts. It will be hard work, as many in the hierarchy seem convinced that the parish is not an effective mission unit. We see that in the deployment of Strategic Development Funding. The ‘Save the Parish’ network are right to point out that this money needs to be accessible at parish level and more evidently available across the range of churchmanship. It is good that ‘Save the Parish’ has been set up and is working at this, but it strikes me as astonishing that these points should need to be made.

The Emerging Church Programme warrants careful scrutiny. There is a huge amount of potential change under this banner, including the Vision and Strategy work-stream. ‘Simpler, humbler, bolder’ may not be a bad slogan, but parish clergy will want to know what is tucked away in the phrase ‘A church where mixed ecology is the norm’. All the talk is of fresh expressions, pioneer ministry, church planting and cell churches, but how does that balance with the parish system, and who is advocating better support and funding for parish life? I’d hope to carry on contributing to that discussion. Also under the Emerging Church umbrella is Transforming Effectiveness, which has the potential to introduce sweeping changes to the National Church Institutions which I worry may result in the concentration of power in a far smaller and less diverse group of people.

Mission in Revision is heading down the tracks too: a review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. This is still at a very early stage, but I would hope to carry on making a contribution as a Church Commissioner, which is where the review sits, and on Synod. There is plenty of good stuff in the report, but there is pressure to make it easier to dispossess clergy through pastoral reorganisation (possibly by removing the Commissioners’ role of deciding whether contested pastoral schemes can proceed, which is a check on the power of the diocesan bishop), and a move to downgrade the rights of private patrons.

The Clergy Remuneration Review is coming up for discussion soon, and I would like to press for more serious consideration of the matter of retirement housing, which I think is hugely important to many of us, and which is not adequately addressed by the ‘RACSC’ report.

Then there’s Living in Love and Faith, which continues with a high degree of sensitivity, and the next stage of the proposed Anglican-Methodist Covenant is about to begin. Training of ordination candidates is in the air too, and those of us who believe in the value of residential training will need to work hard to put that case.

Looking for the City that is to come

To sum up, I am keen to carry on offering what I’ve been doing, and bring the experience of one quinquennium into the next as a committed parish priest of 26 years in orders, as well as to bring to debates and legislative scrutiny some ‘extra-parochial’ skills, educational and legal, and many years’ experience of diocesan bodies. For pleasure, I play the piano and am a bit of a cricket nut. I am a cat owner (or does she own me?). I would be very grateful for your first choice vote, and feel free to call if you have any questions: 020 7405 1831.
Revd Anne Stevens

I’m standing for General Synod again mainly because I want to support the mission and ministry that the Church of England offers the nation through its parish churches and chaplaincies. I am not a member of the ‘Save the Parish’ campaign as I do recognize the need to develop new worshipping communities and new patterns of mission. But it is unfortunate that this is often being done in a way that isolates the newer ministries and leaves the older ones under-resourced. My hope is that we can learn to help old and new work much more closely together. This would enable us to support and encourage each other without losing sight of our calling to serve the local communities and institutions whose future is so closely linked with our own: ‘Seek the welfare of the city, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.’ (Jeremiah 29.7) Both in Synod and in my work as a Church Commissioner these are the priorities I will be standing for in the revision of the Mission and Pastoral Measure and in the continued discussions about the strategy and funding of the church’s mission.

This Synod will also be considering other vital issues. I fully support the 2030 Net Zero carbon target set by the last Synod. Further work is urgently needed to improve the church’s Safeguarding practice and reform the Clergy Discipline Measure. Previously a Trustee of WATCH and Inclusive Church, I am pleased to sign up to the Inclusive Church statement, ‘I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.’ I long for the day that women’s ministry and equal marriage are fully accepted in the church, but recognize in the meantime the need for courteous and thoughtful debate. Finally – and crucially for a potential London representative – I will do all I can to support the work of the Racial Justice Commission as its work comes before the Synod.

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<tr>
<th>Present Post</th>
<th>General Synod experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>Since 2012 - Vicar of St Pancras, Euston Rd (Camden) EDMONTON AREA DEAN OF WOMEN’S MINISTRY 2015-19</td>
<td>Elected Member of the House of Clergy 2005-12 (Southwark) and 2017-21 (London)</td>
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<td><strong>Previous Ministerial Posts</strong></td>
<td><strong>Church House experience</strong></td>
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<td>Vicar of St Michael’s, Battersea and Director of Reader Training (Southwark)</td>
<td>2018-23: Elected by General Synod as a Church Commissioner</td>
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<td>Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge</td>
<td>2009-12: Appointed Member of Steering Committee for the legislation for Women in the Episcopate</td>
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<td>Curate, East Greenwich Team (Southwark)</td>
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<td>Customer Service Manager, British Telecom</td>
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<td>Civil Servant, Home Office</td>
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This year I have been ordained ten years, all served in London Diocese. I am from Scotland, and have lived in the North of England, and then in Berkshire, Oxford Diocese, from where I was sent to train for ordination.

In December 2018 I was elected as Chair of the House of Clergy for London Diocese and have sought to serve the House in helping set the agenda for our Diocesan Synod, and speaking into those issues which are important for the regular Parish Priest and all the Parishes across London Diocese.

I am from an Open Evangelical tradition and have an inclusive theology on LGBT+ matters. I am ‘pro’ same-sex marriage and believe it to be consonant with the biblical narrative, and so look to encourage the flourishing of all human beings within the Church of England.

I have also found that my ministry involves seeking gender justice in the local and national structures of the church and I was a member of the WATCH (Women and the Church) national committee, 2013-2019.

In my local church ministry, I would like to champion the voice of the mid-sized/small parish church and look to find ways in which the General Synod can support and affirm their work and flourishing. Often the ‘average’ parish church is framed as simply maintaining the status quo at best, or hastening general decline at worst, however that is far from my experience as a parish priest of a mid-sized church and I would like to see us work from the centre to resource these kinds of parishes, for the flourishing of the whole Church of England.

Thank you for reading!

With every blessing, Jody
Dear Friend,

I have served on Diocesan Synods since my Diaconal year, so hopefully I have some knowledge of the good and less useful ways in which the Church of England operates. Primarily, I am standing on an ‘inclusion and Renewal’ ticket. ‘Inclusion’ because we are all members of the Body of Christ and it behoves us to include and affirm each other, whether we agree or not on any number of issues—there are a myriad of problems in the world and the church and we should not seek to add to them by dividing the Body. ‘Renewal’ because as the Body of Christ, we seek to be continually moulded and renewed in His image, that we ‘may lead the rest of our life according to this new beginning’ which we received at our Baptism.

In Synod, I would support strongly the gifts that God has already bestowed upon our Church, including the Parish System which is a structure of support and hope to ourselves and the nation we serve, while also strongly supporting the use of Bishop’s Mission Orders, properly granted, to sustain and refresh the life of Parishes and seek out new converts that we may fulfil our calling in a changing world. It is also incumbent upon us to support those who have been damaged by the Church and to wield scalpels at places where we have covered up and shied away from accountability.

One of the most pressing areas of our common life is, I believe, a reawakening of our place in the worldwide Anglican Communion, and with other member churches, to reject the globalisation of superficiality—where human relationships are being suffocated by the advancement of technology and the overbearing desire for individual, financial/material ‘wealth’ - which threatens to tear our society apart. Only by looking outwards to our global partners, indeed to our global members of the Body of Christ, and committing to learn from and share with them, can this be effectively countered. Our natural divisions of Churchmanship and Party must take a back seat lest we become irrelevant to a changed world.

Adolfo Nicolas, the previous Superior General of the Jesuits, said at his election ‘Today all nations are gathered here. Each and every one is represented here. However, nations continue to appear. I ask myself today who are these ‘nations’, these non geographical communities, these human communities which ask for our help: they are the poor, the marginalized, the outcast. In our globalized universe, the number of absolute outcasts is increasing. The outcasts are failing, because in our society there is only room for the
great and not for the little ones. All those who are disadvantaged, manipulated, all these are perhaps for us these ‘nations’: nations which need the prophetic message of God’. I suggest that we seek to be collaborators in this great world, reflecting in our city that which is reflected in Christ’s Body. A myriad of people, united in one common wish for the health, the salvation and the joy of the poor—which is the primary ardent wish of any Christian governing body like ours.

Ecumenism and Interfaith work are important parts of our life together and the Synod should seek unity of Christians in conscience and according to our tradition as we have received it, thus expressing the needs of the world and the future Kingdom. I am a Christian before I am an Anglican, but I am convinced by the claims of our Church.

Sexuality is a topic of much discussion in our Church and the world. All clergy should feel able to live freely and according to the teaching of Scripture. Parishes will only benefit from Clergy who feel able to tell the truth about their sexual orientation and which of the two genders they are. Living a concealed life or feeling that they have to hide parts of their identity is no basis for a healthy parish or a healthy life.

Education is in my blood and in the blood of the Church. I have been a School Governor for my ordained life and occasionally Chair of Governors - both of Primary and Secondary Schools, and I have Chaired a great number of tribunals, including one with over three hundred allegations which took many weeks to conclude. Our Schools are a jewel in the crown and I am firmly of the belief that they should be supported fully and that we should be looking at ways to increase the Theological Education in them and to increase the role of the Parochial Clergy so that we raise up a generation of disciples of Christ who are eloquent and convinced about their faith. This is crucial to our life together.

PERSONAL DETAILS.

I am 46 years old, and a Northerner in Exile here in London, although I have lived in other countries and feel at home in this world city.

As Area Dean of Brent, I have responsibilities in the most diverse borough in the world, and I rejoice in that in all it’s technicolour glory, while also being very aware of the needs of the urban poor and those who are forgotten and oppressed. As Police Chaplain I am used to reacting to ever changing situations and varied need, and as Vicar of St Matthew’s I have overseen a complete renewal of our buildings and mission in this blessed place. I have learned much about the good and fair use of our assets, land and buildings and believe that a wider view needs to be taken across the whole Church of England at how we use our assets equitably to support each other.

Before Ordination, I was a Stage Manager and I owned a restaurant. I have a balanced, and fair mind, and I value integrity and truth above anything else. If we are to convert people to Christ, I have always felt that we best do so through showing the good and bad times, and committing to living in our communities according to the parish system. I have been a Christian all my life, and one day I hope to be a good one.

Thank you for reading this. I’m happy to answer any questions you may have, and I would appreciate your prayers and of course your vote! I would endeavour to use it wisely and to serve you and the whole church diligently.

My email address is andrewteather@gmail.com—do feel free to contact me.
Robert Thompson  
Vicar of St Mary’s Kilburn & St James’ West Hampstead
Proposed by: Jarel Robinson-Brown; Assistant Curate, St Botolph’s Aldgate
Seconded by: Jess Swift, Vicar St Ann’s Tottenham

About me:
• The Church of England’s diversity has facilitated by own journey of faith with Jesus from a conservative Evangelical context into a ‘(post-) liberal, evangelical, Catholic,’ with broad liturgical sympathies
• Having served my title at St Martin’s Ruislip with its deep, Catholic spirituality I am passionate about people finding spiritual discipline/structure and parishes committed to numerical growth as part of mission
• Having served as a hospital chaplain for 18 years, working with HTB curates and volunteers, I am passionate about pastoral care and confidence in the Holy Spirit and charismatic renewal
• Serving as Vicar of a Black majority parish with a debt advice service, post office, coffee shop and children’s soft play centre, I am passionate about creative, parochial mission
• Working in an area of deprivation with strong Catholic, Jewish and Muslim communities, I am passionate about joint community work to address poverty and the climate crisis
• Being a gay man, in committed relationship, and serving a really diverse parish, I am passionate about inclusion, celebrating difference, equity and justice

Key priorities of the Church of England:
I am standing to help grow a diverse and Inclusive Church, to
Save the Parish as the primary location of mission, to
Strengthen Safeguarding and Clergy Wellbeing and to
Reform the Episcopacy in order to rebalance and check power

1) Building an Inclusive & Diverse Church: I would support in Synod legislation brought forward to:
• admit all people to all ministries, and marriage, on equal terms, whilst providing for those who in conscience cannot accept this
• address the lives of all people on equal terms by providing for advocates and chaplaincies that will enable us, across all our differences, to flourish and live in unity
• implement safeguarding assessments/transparency statements outlining theological positions and the pastoral care that women & LGBTQIA+ people, in particular, may expect
2) Saving the Parish’s primacy in a Mission-Shaped Church: I support the aims and objectives of Save the Parish and in addition to their aims would also work in Synod to bring forward legislation that would:
• develop collaborative mission-shaped/pioneering initiatives within the context of the parish as the primary missional unit that are not created in competition to them
• scrap BMOs which are increasingly given without the consent of local people in particular parishes and are detrimental to the wellbeing of parochial clergy and people
• reform the structures of DACs which at present prioritise historical considerations in relation to building development over missional and liturgical renewal

3) Setting up independent Safeguarding and CDM structures/processes: I would advocate in ongoing Synodical work and debates to:
• support the mandatory reporting of all safeguarding concerns to local authorities
• make safeguarding oversight independent of the church to ensure that we are complying with the best practice expected within our society
• make the CDM process/structure independent of the Episcopacy since the missional, pastoral and judicial vocations of bishops are at present in conflict

4) Supporting the clergy and reforming the Episcopacy: I would seek to bring forward work and legislation in Synod in order to:
• initiate proactive, professional, structured and regular supervision for all clergy to aid well-being, and our effectiveness in leading mission
• make the appointment and the work of bishops more open, transparent and, at least partly, democratic, including the publication of minutes of meetings and voting records
• address the lack of scrutiny of episcopal power and decision making by considering strengthening the roles of elected lay and clerical members of diocesan synods

Thanks & my support of Fiona Jack
Many thanks for reading this statement. I am committed to actively representing Clergy of the Diocese in General Synod from right across our traditions. There are many other issues that Synod will consider in the next 5 years than just those above; if you would like to contact me by email I am very happy to respond to any questions you may have:
vicaragekilburn@btopenworld.com

If you do choose to give me your first preference vote I recommend that you cast your second preference for Fiona Jack who I am supporting.
CHRISTOPHER TRUNDLE
Vicar of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Mark’s, Clerkenwell
Nominated by Paul Thomas
Vicar of St James, Paddington
Seconded by Peter Anthony
Vicar of All Saints, Margaret Street

ABOUT ME: I am Vicar of two parishes of differing traditions in the Stepney Episcopal Area, having served previously in Tottenham and Pimlico, and am also an Army Reserve chaplain. I served in the last General Synod, and I’m an elected member of the Diocesan Synod and Stepney Area Council. I’m married to Lucy, a university lecturer, and we have two young children. I live and minister in Clerkenwell, an area in which, like much of our Diocese, the gap between rich and poor continues to widen rapidly. I’m passionate about the mission of the local church, ministry among young people, and encouraging vocations to ordained ministry. As the effects of COVID-19 continue to be felt, I believe the Church has a responsibility not only to serve the vulnerable but to proclaim our faith at a time when many need and want to hear it: this is a moment for advance, not retreat.

SOME KEY ISSUES FOR THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

- The recent crisis has shown that our parish churches, rooted in their communities and aware of their contexts, remain effective units of mission and ministry. Parish clergy should be and feel well-supported.
- I welcome increasing realism about spending and giving at national and diocesan levels. We need to ensure that plans for a financially challenging future do not adversely affect our ministry to the poorest communities, and continue to cherish our diverse traditions, patterns of ministry and our polity.
- Greater transparency is needed to allay concern that liturgical and sacramental expressions of church life are underrepresented in projects supported by the Strategic Development Fund. Criteria and measures used may not easily map onto more catholic forms of mission and ministry, and given that this unprecedented funding is for the flourishing of the whole church, work needs to be done to make sure it is widely applied.
- LLF is a much-needed process which depends on our generous and sensitive engagement. There has never been a time when these issues have been more important in wider society as well as in the church, and we must engage pastorally and theologically: the process is not yet over. I come to this conversation affirming the Church’s existing teaching on marriage.
- Addressing the decline in engagement with young people must be a priority for the whole Church; we need to see more sacramental and liturgical approaches to youth ministry.
- Ordained ministry, which is central to our Church’s life, charism and heritage, should be well-resourced, and Synod must strive to preserve excellent formation for ordinands, including residential training.
- Good partnership between SSM and stipendiary clergy will be needed more than ever to ensure the best deployment of gifts and skills.
- The proposed reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure is a positive step, and the next Synod will need to carefully scrutinise proposals to ensure a disciplinary framework which is appropriate, but which avoids the terrible treatment of clergy we have become all too familiar with.
- Safeguarding remains a crucial area which dioceses and central church institutions still seem to struggle to get right. Synod must continue to hold these bodies to account.

Thank you for taking the time to read this address. I am committed to actively representing the Clergy of the Diocese in General Synod. There are many other issues for General Synod to consider than those above; if you would like to get in touch, my email address is vicar@holyredeemerclerkenwell.com. I would be grateful of your support with your first preference vote.
THE REVEREND MARCUS WALKER
GENERAL SYNOD

The parish is at the heart of the Church of England. It informs every aspect of our mission and our vision of ourselves. It is prized well beyond those who attend church on a Sunday, and is spoken of passionately by bishops and archbishops. And yet, over many decades parishes have been starved of priests and money, their assets used to make good the mistakes of others. Matters are reaching a critical point and so I have chosen to stand as part of the Save the Parish movement and pledge to focus my energies on these pledges. You can read the full manifesto here: www.savetheparish.com

• To support the archbishops in keeping their pledge to support the parish as the best means of evangelism.
• To put the “frontline first”, ensuring that resources that properly belong to and are generated by the parishes remain at parish level, freeing up laity and clergy for mission.
• To ensure that law and projects which initiate from the centre all support and enhance the parochial system by integrating the Strategic Development Fund into the parish and opposing the revision to the Mission & Pastoral Measure which would make it easier and quicker for the dioceses to close churches, make priests redundant, and evict them from their homes.

• We believe that effective mission requires the prioritisation of spending on good theological education as a crucial investment.
• We will call for a Church-State commission to agree a national plan to protect and preserve historic parish buildings.

This isn’t a cause for only one part of the church. It’s one which is shared by Evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics, the High Church, the Middle of the Road... anyone, really, who values the system which has been gifted to us in its wonderful diversity of expressions. I pledge to work together with all those of goodwill, whatever their position on all of the other matters which vex the church, to Save the Parish.

WHO AM I?

I am the Rector of Great St Bartholomew in the City of London. Having been baptized and confirmed in Jerusalem and raised in the Holy Land, Egypt and the USSR, I am a child of the Anglican Communion as much as a child of the CofE, and have made working for persecuted Christians in the Middle East one of my personal priorities – not just by writing about their plight, but practically as a trustee of the Ankawa Foundation, which was created to support Christians driven from their homes in Iraq and Syria by ISIS.

I used to work in politics and hope that the skills honed there - of understanding proposed legislation and working together with people across political dividing lines - would be useful in the General Synod as we discuss the major issues of the day.

Before coming to St Bart’s, I was curate in North London and Deputy Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome - the Anglican Communion’s official representation to the Holy See. I have a deep love of the Prayer Book, and of the wonderful network of parishes, cathedrals, and chaplaincies which make up our church.
THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE

Having grown up around Orthodox, Roman Catholics, and Protestants (of a vast variety of denominations) in countries which are often hostile to Christianity – and then having worked as Deputy Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome – the importance of Christ’s prayer “that they may all be one” is written in my heart. I would work to maximise the level of unity we can enjoy with our Christian brothers and sisters – both outside and within the Anglican Communion.

TRUST THE LOCAL

The Church’s response to the Covid pandemic highlighted the need to trust the clergy and laity responsible for the cure of souls of each parish as they make decisions that are right for those parishes. In their article following the first lockdown, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London pledged to respect the proper decision-making processes of parishes and dioceses in future and not to try to impose a one-size-fits-all response in the future. This is greatly to be welcomed! Measures such as the proposed revision to the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 (GS2222) would completely undermine this, removing a vast number of the rights of local parishes, clergy, and communities. I would oppose this, and any other proposal which centralises power and authority.

SAFEGUARDING

Ensuring that the Church of England is a safe place to grow up in, grow old in, and be vulnerable in is essential, as is ensuring that our safeguarding procedures are credible and just. We have to pay very careful attention to what has gone wrong in the past, heed the voices of the survivors of abuse, and ensure the system is one everyone feels confident putting their trust in.

SUPPORTING CLERGY

The pandemic has been a torrid time for clergy and has shone a light into many of the weaknesses in the way the church looks after its clergy. The Clergy Disciplinary Measure is not just unjust, it is cruel and needs root and branch reform. We cannot talk about charity and forgiveness to a world in desperate need of both if we refuse to model it ourselves.

These are some of the issues which will be important over the next five years. As for the others I will listen to the debates and pray as I try to discern the will of God for our church. What I can offer you is a strong voice that isn’t afraid to speak up, publicly, on issues, and a pledge to represent you, diligently and vocally.

As decisions are taken which will shape how the Church of England engages with the remaining three quarters of the 21st century, it is hugely important that General Synod has people in it who aren’t afraid to challenge, test, and (at times) contest proposals from the central church. Should I be elected, I promise to be one of those representatives.
General Synod Election Address: Gareth Wardell


In seeking election to General Synod my main, overarching priority, will be to do all I can to help our Church live out its mission to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

I believe one of the Church of England’s greatest strengths is its breadth of tradition and theological diversity, something that is reflected in my own spiritual pilgrimage to date. I have worshipped within and come to appreciate a wide range of church traditions and believe that in a diocese like London, my lived experience can be used to build bridges between traditions rather than create walls that divide us. As a cradle-Anglican I came to personal faith as a teenager at a Billy Graham rally. After graduating I worked as an NHS Graduate Management Trainee, before training for cross-cultural ministry at All Nations Christian College and working in overseas aid and development for many years in Nepal, where I was the Human Resources Director for United Mission to Nepal, then the largest employer in the country after the Government. I also served as HR Director for IAM (The International Assistance Mission) in Afghanistan during the intensive civil war of the 1990s and the rise to power of the previous Taliban regime and was involved in negotiating with them for the right of women to continue working in our mission’s health related projects when most other NGOs had fled the country. This was a costly witness – many of my colleagues were murdered and I was looted at gun-point on several occasions.

Following a Masters Degree in Post-war Recovery Studies, I worked as a Research Fellow in the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit at York University, travelling regularly to war-affected countries, including undertaking consultancy work in Somalia and post-Taliban Afghanistan, where I co-authored a report for the UN on Afghan women. In 2003 I commenced training for ordination at Ridley Hall, serving my title at Selby Abbey in North Yorkshire before moving ‘back home’ to London in 2008 - I’m a Londoner by birth! Since then I’ve been based in the Kensington Episcopal Area, initially as Associate Vicar at St Mary Abbots on High Street Kensington and then for seven years as the Vicar of All Saints’ Hampton and Chaplain to the Shooting Star Children’s Hospice. For eight years I also served as one of the Assistant Directors of Post Ordination Training for our Episcopal Area. In March 2020, just as lock-down began, I moved to the Parish of St Clement & St James in W11. Familiar to many as the parish in which Grenfell Tower is located, our parish reflects some of the greatest racial diversity and the highest disparities in wealth and poverty to be found anywhere in the country. I spend part of every day in our parish CE Primary School, along with my therapy Labrador, a ‘pastoral assistant with a dog-collar’ who is a great asset in working with many of our Grenfell-impacted children. I also serve as a School Governor and as a Trustee of the Clement James Centre, an award winning local charity founded by the parish, which seeks to serve the needs of our local community.

One of the most frequent criticisms levelled against General Synod is that it is too inward looking. Of course, General Synod is primarily a legislative body, the only law-making body other than Parliament, so inevitably, a certain amount of time has to be taken up with the business of the National Institutions, ensuring they are conducted according to the highest standards. But there is much more the Church of England can do to communicate and promote the values and principles of what we believe to our wider society.

Our Christian faith has much to say about how public money is spent, about child poverty, racism, climate change and creation-care, education, health, prison-reform, and about how we treat the most vulnerable in our society – to name just
a few examples. We need to become better at ensuring the decisions we take enhance our Church’s outward looking purpose and vision. For every negative news story, we can all cite many more examples of faithful clergy and laity quietly making a difference, day-in and day-out, in the lives of their communities without ever drawing attention to themselves. In some particularly deprived places, it is only the Church of England which remains dedicated to serving the local community – this needs to be acknowledged, supported, celebrated and made known. It also needs to be reflected in the ways in which the church allocates its resources. Sadly, too often our motto, in terms of personnel and resources, seems to be: “to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.” Luke 19:26, NRSV.

One of the beauties of Anglicanism is our breadth of opinion. It is, however, difficult to communicate God’s love from a position of power, and that continues to be a challenge for us as the Established Church. Along with our privilege goes a huge amount of responsibility, which I believe, on the whole we undertake with great commitment, dedication and integrity. However, there is a growing gulf emerging between the church and the nation we seek to serve and this is especially true in the area of thinking about human sexuality. For much of society and to almost everyone under the age of forty, the church’s stance on same-sex relationships is incomprehensible and seen as on a par with racism and misogyny. Such toxic attitudes are dishonouring to God and risk creating the kind of environment in which tragedies like the suicide of Lizzie Lowe can occur.

The work of LLF, clergy well-being and much needed CDM reform as outlined by the Sheldon Hub, are best understood in the light of the painful lessons we have learned about ourselves as a church through the witness testimony and reports of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. IICSA has shown us plainly that a key reason the Church is an unsafe place is because it has allowed the subordination of women and discrimination against LGBT+ people and fostered a culture of secrecy. Shame and secrecy concerning sexuality was also found to have played a part in the tragic murder of Peter Farquhar by a Church Warden in his parish. Likewise, shame and secrecy featured prominently in the abuse scandals involving John Smyth and the Iwerne Camps and with Jonathan Fletcher and Emmanuel Wimbledon. There is a vital need for joined-up thinking between LLF and the learning to emerge from IICSA if the Archbishops’ vision of ‘radical new Christian inclusion’ in terms of gender, sexuality, race and disability is to be realized.

I am excited about the future and meeting the challenges that lie ahead. The generation of young people now in their teens and early twenties is more informed than ever about the issues facing us, nationally and internationally, and passionate about doing something to change our world for the better. They need our help and support to learn how to integrate their views with Christian values and will learn best by watching how we live our lives - at work and at home. If elected to General Synod, my deepest desire will be to encourage all that fosters faith and trust in Jesus Christ and in the truth of a Gospel that has the potential to transform lives. For as long as we remain the Established Church, we have both the right and responsibility to speak out for Christ and to counter a view of the world that does not allow for the existence of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit. In all that I do, I will endeavour to be a faithful witness to Jesus Christ. If elected, I would ask for your prayers for me and all those elected to serve on General Synod, both lay and ordained.

I also ask that when you vote you would give me your first preference vote.

With my love and prayers,

The Revd Gareth Wardell, The Parish of St Clement & St James, W11
Rev’d Natasha Woodward

London Candidate for House of Clergy, General Synod 2021

Nominated by the Rev’d David Neno, Area Dean of Ealing and Vicar of St Peter’s Ealing

Seconded by the Rev’d Anne Stevens, General Synod Member (2005-12, 2017-21), Church Commissioner, former trustee of WATCH (Women and the Church) and Inclusive Church, Vicar of St Pancras

natasha.woodward@london.anglican.org

020 3581 1559, 07758 579369

I believe that...

God creates the world and life which is beautifully interconnected and dynamic. That which does not change is not alive.

God in Jesus shows us the truth of who we are, good and bad, and opens up a better way with God.

God continues to send the Holy Spirit to lead us on a journey of change, the journey of life.

Biography

• Intentional Interim Minister at Christ Church Brondesbury, Willesden Area
• Dean of Women’s Ministry, Willesden Area
• 15 years of parish ministry Greater London (London, Rochester and Chelmsford Dioceses)
• Previously Assistant Principal of St Edmund’s Course in Christian Studies
• Before ordination a Systems Analyst at the Bank of England, and a Two Cities ordinand
• Born in Canada, attended school in Northern Ireland, and Cambridge University

(PTO for the interesting bit)
I am standing for election because...

I believe the Church of England should review the arrangements it has made for those who are unable to accept the ministry of women who are priests and bishops. The arrangements we have made are unique in the worldwide church. As Dean of Women’s Ministry I have had many conversations about how to encourage women in ministry, and hearing concerns about, for example, the very low proportion of stipendiary parish clergy in this diocese who are women (19% v 30% nationally), despite the fact that the majority of parishes in London are open to the ministry of ordained women.¹ I have also heard lament that while the current arrangements were intended by all sides to promote unity, on the ground it can feel as though there is increasing division, with polite separation seeming easier than working together. I have reluctantly concluded that the current arrangements have systemic effects which make it less likely that women will flourish in ministry. General Synod should have the opportunity to review the current arrangements in the light of experience. I will advocate for such a review, and for the experience of women clergy to be a key input into that.

I want to help the Church make a positive response to the environmental crisis. There are enormous practical challenges facing the church as we attempt to address the problems of pollution, waste, and loss of biodiversity as well as climate change. The goal of a more sustainable future is clear, how we do it is less clear. I will examine synod business carefully to find better ways. To support my ability to address policy and advocate for change I am also studying for a part time MSc in Environment and Sustainability.

I will bring my whole self to synod. That includes experience of 15 years of parish ministry in ordinary London churches with their struggles, joys, diversity, richness and surprises.

I am committed to equality for everyone at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.

You may agree with me about nearly everything and want to give me your first or second preference vote. If so, thanks! In our voting system every single first and preference vote is very valuable.

You may agree with me about one thing, but not others. That’s what I expect in our rich and diverse church. Do consider giving me one of your lower preference votes – because of the transferable vote system it is worth expressing a preference unless you think there is no difference between the remaining candidates. If this means you lend me a vote, thank you too!

Remember your vote needs to be in by noon on Monday 11 October.

¹ For 2019, the most recent year published. Church of England Ministry Statistics Report, churchofengland.org
Revd Rachael Wooldridge  
Diocese of London  
31 years old  
rachael.wooldridge@htb.org  
Candidate for House of Clergy  

Proposer: Mthr Alice Ormondroyd, St Mary Abbots Kensington  
Seconder: Rev Preb Nicky Lee, Holy Trinity Brompton  

I am offering myself to serve at the General Synod as I am passionate about seeing the Church of England flourish, most especially at the local parish level. It’s my hope that we would see our churches renewed in order to continue to share the hope we have in Jesus Christ and to impact local communities through the kingdom of God, that we would see lasting change in our society and in people’s lives. I long to see the Church of England go further in reaching young people and people from all backgrounds and corners of our country with the Gospel.

About Me

- I wasn’t born into a Christian family and first attended Church as a teenager, shortly after coming to faith my Mum died of cancer and it was during this time my faith came alive when so much else seemed lost. During this season I discovered first-hand the beauty of the Church as family, and the invaluable role it has in the community, not least to the orphan and widow, those without family, home and every day securities.

- This passion for the Church only grew and led to me working in Church from a young age, studying a BA in Theology, an MA in Biblical studies before moving to London and studying a PhD in Theology and training for Ordination. I’ve had the joy of being involved over the years in most aspects of Church life! From hospitality, to media, to kids and also spending 7 years in youth ministry, 2 years working with women in recovery and the homeless, and more recently as an Ordinand and Curate at Holy Trinity Brompton I have been involved specifically in discipleship, preaching and teaching, all of which I remain hugely passionate about.

- I am married to Revd Andrew Wooldridge and we have a daughter Florence aged 2 and a half (the half is very important to her!) and another child on the way. I’ve recently enjoyed taking up paddle boarding (not on the Thames however!), have played far too much chess and sudoku in lockdown and love walking in nature.

- We became part of the Church of England a number of years ago particularly because of the focus on local parish ministry and moved West London 7 years ago after sensing a strong call to our immediate and local area. I feel passionate about seeing communities develop across the divides of society, the kind of which was most exposed with the Grenfell tragedy in our neighbourhood. It is my hope to represent the concerns of those in my area, and to play a part in seeing the local parish Church thrive, grow and help to reach the needs of local communities which is why I am standing for General Synod.
Key Issues

- The Church is in many ways facing a crisis and I think we should be prioritising resourcing local mission and ministry, supporting churches to thrive at a parish level as well as building on wider initiatives like Thy Kingdom Come where we come together in unity as the Body of Christ in praying for our nation and engaging the next generation into the prayer life of the Church.

- I feel passionate about increased diversity within the leadership structures of the Church of England, that people of all ages, ethnicities and social background would feel represented, heard and seen at every level. I think we have so much to learn from the mistakes and failings in our past, be it around safeguarding or representation, and feel passionate that the Church of England addresses these injustices.

- As a country we face a number of huge issues that I think Church should be speaking into and actively engaging. Not least the issue of climate change, and our care for creation. Also living in the neighbourhood of Grenfell Tower I feel passionate that the Church should continue to address the housing crisis and support the Archbishop of Canterbury’s commission on the issue, as well as engaging local issues and practically supporting our communities.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this, I would so love to ask for your first preference vote in this election and would love to hear from you if you have any questions at Rachael.Wooldridge@htb.org