



JONATHAN WOLSTENHOLME

ABOUT ME

I am a lifelong Londoner, and the Church of England has been my home all my life. I grew up in Battersea at a small church on a council estate, and over my lifetime have worshipped and served in a variety of church communities: large and small; traditional and contemporary; across a range of Anglican traditions.

I currently work as a lay worker at a Bishop's Mission Order church in the Islington Deanery, and serve as a Churchwarden at a parish offering midweek Book of Common Prayer choral evensong in the City Deanery. I am married to Lizzy, a resident doctor specialising in psychiatry, and we recently had our first child.

BISHOP'S COUNCIL since 2021

For the past five years I have served on the Diocesan Bishop's Council (DBC), throughout that time as its youngest member. I have sought to undertake the responsibilities of a trustee diligently: scrutinising plans, asking constructive questions and seeking to ensure that decisions are wise and responsible.

I have seen first-hand the contribution an attentive and engaged laity can make to the life of the Church, bringing a range of skills and experience from many walks of life. I believe good governance must include **strong safeguarding**, marked by robust accountability and proper care for those who have been harmed.

I have also sought to examine proposals which would transfer responsibility from local churches towards the centre, because I believe the church's structures should **support and equip local churches** rather than unnecessarily removing responsibility or resources from those who know their communities best.

Serving alongside people with different roles, perspectives and life experiences has shown me the value of listening carefully while being willing to speak clearly.

Several colleagues from Diocesan Synod and DBC have encouraged me to stand for General Synod as a younger lay voice, with five years' service on DBC. With their backing I hope to put this experience to good use by representing London's laity in our national church body.



- Aged 28
- Churchwarden at a BCP parish in the City
- Lay worker & Children's Champion at a BMO in Islington
- Member of Diocesan Synod & Bishop's Council since 2021

I would be delighted if you could give me a **first** or **high preference vote**.

Proposer: Zi Ken Toh
St Giles-in-the-Fields
(Westminster St Margaret)
Pictured with me bottom left

Seconder: Ade Adebajo
Lay Vice-Chair of Diocesan Synod (Chelsea deanery)
Pictured with me bottom right

Both fellow members of DBC



A CHURCH FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

I am passionate about seeing children and young people engage with the Christian faith, and about making sure there is a Church for the next generation to inherit.

The Church of England has a remarkable **opportunity** through our **schools**, bringing us into contact with children, young people and families who may have little other connection with the Church.



Helping with an 'Easter Experience' for year 6 pupils.

Much of my ministry has involved young people, in both churches and schools. I have helped with school assemblies and Christian groups, giving pupils opportunities to explore the Christian faith. I oversee our church's children's work, and have helped at several holiday clubs and youth groups. I want to see churches **welcome** and **engage** the next generation: creating spaces to ask questions, encounter Jesus, and grow in faith. If elected, I will advocate for these concerns in the wider church.

A CHURCH WITH A BREADTH OF EXPRESSIONS

I want to be part of a Church of England where people from all sorts of backgrounds can belong and flourish among God's people. I have participated in churches with very different styles and traditions, and have learnt to value the gifts that each can bring. I want our differences to **enrich** the life of the Church rather than prevent us from welcoming people, serving our communities and sharing the good news of life in Jesus. I would love to see churches which are confident about who we are, generous towards one another and outward-looking in our welcome.



As a musician and former choral scholar, I have a particular love for the riches of Anglican liturgy, music and history.

I don't believe we need to choose between valuing the inheritance we have received and finding new ways to reach people. I want to contribute to a Church of England **confident in both**.

Pictured furthest right, taking part in the first Anglican Evensong to take place at St Peter's Basilica, Rome, as part of the choir of Merton College Oxford.

WHY I'M STANDING

I love the Church of England. It has been my home all my life, and I want that to be possible for my children and for **future generations**.

I want to see a Church which witnesses to Jesus confidently to those around us, welcomes people from all sorts of backgrounds, values local churches and makes good use of the gifts of its laity. I want to help build a Church where many can find a home and a family among God's people.

I hope to bring to Synod a **younger lay voice** shaped by **different parts** of the Church, with five years' **experience of diocesan governance** and a passion for reaching the **next generation**.

General Synod needs people who will represent those who elect them, scrutinise proposals carefully and contribute constructively to the life of the Church. I would be honoured to do that for you. Thank you for your service in your church and on your deanery synod, and for reading this far.

I would be very grateful for your first or high preference vote.



If you have any questions, do feel free to contact me on: J.Wolstenholme.GS2026@gmail.com