

PHILIP BALDWIN

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Standing for re-election to General Synod

Proposer: Andrew Mackay
Seconder: Iain Bailey

We must proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ afresh to each generation.

I have served on the General Synod from 2021 – 2026. It would be a great honour to serve a second term. I am forty-one, a former lawyer who is now a writer.

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING ME YOUR FIRST PREFERENCE VOTE

OVERVIEW

- Lawyer (2009 – 2015)
- National School Faith LGBT+ Role Model (2016 – 2021)
- Founding trustee of the Ozanne Foundation (2017 – 2025)
- Women and the Church (WATCH) trustee (2025 – present day)
- Ban Conversion Practices Coalition (2025 – present day)
- Interests include homelessness, social justice and interfaith work

CHURCH EXPERIENCE

- PCC of St Anne's Church, Soho (2016 – present day)
- General Synod, Diocesan and Deanery Synods (2021 – 2026) and London's Vacancy-in-See Committee (2025 – 2026)
- Spoke in a wide range of General Synod debates, from liturgy to mission and from parish matters to inclusion, and frequently submitted written questions, as well as negotiating and building connections and networks beyond the Synod Chamber

Professionally, I write regular columns and opinion pieces for national publications about many different causes, as well as some broadcasting. I am keen to understand all views, and so try to listen respectfully and prayerfully whilst keeping an open mind. My priorities for a second term include:

i) Inclusion

Believing that, in Christ, we are all equal in God's sight, I would continue to champion for standalone same-sex blessings and same-sex marriage within the Church. I will continue to advocate for racial justice, those with disabilities or neurodivergence, and support women's ministry at every level within the Church of England. I am keen that the next Bishop of London ordains women. I also work with charities advocating for asylum claimants.

ii) Safeguarding

Following a series of devastating failures, we will rightly continue to face scrutiny over our approach to safeguarding in the next quinquennium. We need independent safeguarding which has to be perceived as such by victims and survivors, who we need to place front and centre. The redress scheme is long overdue. We must always include the voices of survivors when considering safeguarding. There have been improvements, but we must rebuild trust and ensure that our churches are truly safe. I am on the national Ban Conversion Practices Coalition and have friends, from across faith traditions, who were subjected to so-called “conversion therapy”. Our churches also need to be safe for LGBT+ people.

iii) Encouraging church growth

I began my faith journey in my mid-twenties, following an HIV diagnosis at 24-years-old and was confirmed in 2015, at Southwark Cathedral. I was so lucky to encounter Jesus in my life in my twenties and have benefitted hugely from being part of the Church since then, growing in faith through the Bible and prayer. I would like to see more young people come to faith and have the same positive experiences of the Church, as I did. Caring about future generations, also means caring for our planet and the environment, which they will inhabit, and I support the Church of England's Net Zero ambitions. For many young people, climate change is their primary concern, so caring for the environment and evangelism go hand-in-hand.

CHURCH TRADITION

From 2014 – 2016, I attended St John's in Waterloo, which is from the affirming Catholic tradition. From 2016 to the present day, I have worshipped at St Anne's Soho, serving on the PCC of a church that is diverse, inclusive and thoroughly Anglican. During my time as a trustee of the Ozanne Foundation, I met affirming Evangelicals who also shaped my faith journey. I live close to St Bartholomew's the Great, in Smithfield, and since 2024 have enjoyed attending services there. I have genuinely benefitted from both the Catholic and Evangelical traditions. I believe that the parish church system is the foundation of the Church of England, where local churches, especially in areas of deprivation, are vital places of mission and service.

PLEASE VOTE, as the turnout was low in London in 2021.

PLEASE PRAY for everyone standing.

“I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.”

(Together statement, which I have signed)