

Revd Christopher Ramsay

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With my wife of 31 years, Anita Kapila

Scan the QR code or [click here to watch my 70 second video](#) of my reasons for standing to answer the question '*aren't you pale, male and stale?*'



Nominated by: Revd Prebendary Andy Rider: Stepney Dean of Mission

"I am very happy to nominate Christopher for election, his passion for mission and his long experience of living amongst and serving a multi-cultural community in West London, coupled with his organisational skills and heart for those on the margins, equip him brilliantly for synodical leadership in our generation."



Seconded by: Revd Prebendary Amatu Christian-Iwuagwu:

Vicar St Mark and St Stephen Bush Hill Park, Edmonton Area.

"I am delighted to second Christopher Ramsay's nomination. Christopher is a thoughtful, compassionate and deeply collaborative priest whose emotional intelligence, commitment to diversity, and ability to build bridges across difference will be a tremendous gift to the Church's life and witness."

Mission as the priority

When I was recently baptising a new Christian in his early 30s from Caribbean heritage (who explored Islam and Jehovah's Witnesses before coming to Christ) I thought "*this is what I signed up to do as a Vicar*".

After almost 30 years in ordained ministry and 25 years as Vicar St George Southall I still get excited when I see Jesus moving in people's lives.

The parish as the catalyst

But of course, as clergy that's not all we have to do and I'm very conscious of the burden of management of buildings, finances, and organisational life, and not least the cultural and internal pressures to succeed that take up so much time. The question is *how can the resources of the Church continue to support the front line of mission in the parish.*



There is no way I'll be a vicar like my dad!

Clergy well-being is crucial

My experiences of conducting ministerial reviews for clergy is that we give ourselves wholeheartedly and sacrificially to build God's kingdom through his Church. This needs affirmation and encouragement, *our well-being* and the structures which enable this are crucial for the future of the C of E. Personally I have found my hobby of stone carving a wonderful outlet for creativity and rest.

My experience

I first thought about standing for general synod when I was a curate but realised that I didn't know enough people to get elected! That may still be true, but the desire to serve the Church of England has been built into me since growing up with a dad who was Vicar of a middle of the road village parish. On a personal note, I have a broad spirituality using Ignatius's Spiritual exercises as a sermon series this year, and minster in a church with a Eucharistic tradition, whilst integrating my charismatic evangelical formation. *I believe I am very C of E!* I have served various capacities in London Diocese: as an Area Dean, as an Area Director of Ordinands, as Director of Mission for the Willesden Area, as a Chair of two new C of E Secondary Schools, and founding Chair of Ealing Foodbank. So I know the dynamic gift of local parish life and owning the wider part we play in God's church.



Me Age 11

Your representative

One of the things I've noticed is that after a General Synod election I have never really heard back from anyone that I voted for. If you'd like someone *to be your representative*, then I'd do my best to do that by facilitating conversation with you on ongoing basis. Perhaps an open 'surgery' with prayer online a couple of times a year could work.



Churches which are Intergenerational, Intercultural and Eco-Church

At St George's we seek to be an *intergenerational church* so here is a picture of two members of my church who recently preached with me. With imagination every church can attract families. *Safeguarding* is essential to get right, whilst not making it the goal of church life, but threaded through all of our life together. I have a particular heart for *inter-cultural ministry* having served in one of the most ethnically diverse parishes in the country since being ordained. Despite being an inner-city profile church, we achieved our Eco Church Gold in 2025 because motivated by scripture we have *woven ecological sustainability into our understanding of all we do*. And we are seeing people of other faiths become Christians.

A call to prayer not anxiety

Some of the strengths I could bring to the role would be my strategic mindset, recognising the current challenges in England as the landscape of faith changes with both churches shrinking at the same time as amazing opportunities that a *spiritually hungry generation* present us. I'm a down-to-earth effective communicator and I'm a good team builder. At my own church we have raised up lay leaders who are slowly having a go at *planting a new congregation on the estate* they live on. It's not easy, but it is possible with intentionality and support. A tight budget as the national church should not be an obstacle to church growth but rather *call us to prayer and dependency on God to do what we can't*.



If elected I would be a voice for:



My latest stone carving

1. You. I would be your representative
2. A call to prayer as the answer to our challenges as a church rather than anxious activity
3. Mission as the priority, not management of an institution
4. The parish as the catalyst for new initiatives and planting new congregations
5. Championing the global Church, especially where we can intentionally cultivate intercultural churches in the diverse communities of the UK, including seeing people of other faiths become Christians
6. An integrated approach to ecological sustainability in the life of our churches
7. Upholding the historic view of marriage held by the Church for over 2000 years

I love the Church England, I feel at home in it, I want it to thrive and continue to be present and engaged in every community in our nation. Please consider placing me as your number 1 or even 2 in your choices. Even if I don't get elected, your vote won't be wasted as it will travel down your list to someone else you think could equally serve God's purposes in General Synod.

If you do vote for me, please do let me know, so I can stay in contact christopher.ramsay@london.anglican.org

Every blessing on all your ministry,

Christopher Ramsay