

I have been serving as the Vicar of Chelsea Old Church for the last four years and have also recently begun serving as Area Dean of Chelsea. I care deeply about parish ministry, and the ministry and welfare of my colleagues in the Deanery, and in the wider Church of England. Should I be elected to serve on General Synod I would prioritise parish ministry, clergy training and formation, and the ongoing welfare and support of clergy.

After training residentially at Westcott House, I served my curacy in a rural market town parish, have worked in higher education chaplaincy, and now am a parish priest in a residential area of London. I have been in Holy Orders for 10 years, and am married to Alice, a barrister.

At Chelsea Old Church we minister to a wide range of people in our pastoral offices, meeting and serving folk who have worshiped locally for generations, and whose extended families live and worship across the country. Being a parish priest is the single greatest privilege I have ever known, and I am so very grateful for all those Christians up and down the country who support and cherish their parish churches, volunteering and worshipping faithfully and locally, despite sometimes receiving little recognition and support.

I have the delight to be training two curates; one non-stipendiary, who came through the Caleb Stream at St Mellitus, and the other, a full-time stipendiary, through Ridley Hall. Our Associate Priest is responsible for retired clergy in the Kensington Area. These relationships mean that non-stipendiary, stipendiary, and the ministries of retired clergy are all cherished, vital parts of the ministry in which we share.

As an Assistant Director of Ordinands, I am keenly aware of the challenges facing theological education and formation, as well as those which confront folk who are discerning God's call to ministry and considering how they will negotiate an uncertain future.

Before coming to Chelsea I was Chaplain at Queens' College, Cambridge and served on the Governing Body as an Official Fellow, and as a Tutor for Post-Graduates. These roles meant that I regularly dealt with working group papers, considering opposed positions, listening to others, voting, and living well with difference, as well as being mindful of the implications of change in the long term as a trustee of a perpetual institution. As the convenor of the Deans & Chaplains of the University I was used to working with a range of ministers and acting in their best interests.

I have not served on General Synod before, but this does not diminish my willingness to serve diligently in this capacity. Five years ago, when considering standing under the category for Universities, I thought it best that I should wait until I had some experience as an incumbent. After four years in post I am aware that I could use this excuse for a good thirty years, and so have decided to throw my hat in the ring.

At this time I am standing because I love the Church, and in particular because I love the Church of England, which has nurtured my faith and given me the gift of theological education and ministerial formation, the opportunity to minister as part of the established church with its parish system, which serves every mile of this country, and whose doctrines and formularies are generous and faithful to the inheritance we have received in Christ, while remaining distinctly Reformed and Catholic.

I would like to prioritise parish ministry, clergy training and formation, and their ongoing welfare because if we get these things right we can look to future with confidence in Christ knowing that we have done the best by our inheritance.

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