

CHRISTOPHER TRUNDLE

*Vicar of Our Most Holy Redeemer
and St Mark's, Clerkenwell*

*Nominated by Peter Anthony
All Saints, Margaret Street*

*Seconded by Stephen Gallagher
Fulham Missioner, St Chad, Haggerston & Holy Trinity, Hoxton*



ABOUT ME: I am Vicar of Holy Redeemer and St Mark's, Clerkenwell, two parishes of differing traditions in the Stepney Episcopal Area, having previously served in Tottenham and Pimlico. I am also an Army Reserve chaplain. I served in the last two General Synod quinquennia, am an elected member of Diocesan Synod, and have been Chair of the House of Clergy since 2021. I am married to Lucy and we have three young children. Living and ministering in Clerkenwell, where the gap between rich and poor continues to widen, has reinforced my commitment to the mission of the local church, ministry among young people, and encouraging vocations to ordained ministry. At a time when many are ready to hear the Gospel, I believe this is a moment to invest confidently in our parishes and in our clergy, and support them in serving their communities.

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

- Our **parish churches**, rooted in their communities and aware of their contexts, are extremely effective units of mission, discipleship and ministry. Parish clergy should be and feel well-supported, and I strongly back efforts to hold the Church Commissioners to account for the **lack of resources** parishes and dioceses are experiencing—our financial situation need not be as it is. While I am not one of Save the Parish's candidates, I think they have this absolutely right. We need to ensure, too, 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.
- Although progress has been made recently, it is still the case that liturgical and sacramental expressions of church life are underrepresented in projects supported by the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board. Having seen at first hand the opportunities such funding can create, I believe national **funding should be accessible to the whole Church**, not least those rooted in the Catholic Tradition.
- The Church has experienced four years of declining numbers entering ordination training, while many stipendiary clergy are approaching retirement. The future of our Church depends upon vocations. We must **encourage vocations to ordained ministry** and ensure ordinands receive the training and financial support they need. This particularly includes protecting excellent formation and properly resourcing residential training—the quality of future ministry depends on the quality of formation we provide now.
- The position we have reached in the **LLF process** has left many on different sides of the debate tired and disappointed to say the least. It is not over, of course, and for transparency I come to this discussion unable to support further developments beyond the point we have now reached. I am not a one issue candidate, however, and the future life of our Church will depend on our generous and honest engagement with each other on this and many other issues.
- Strong **partnership between self-supporting and stipendiary clergy** will be needed more than ever to ensure the best deployment of gifts and skills; I say this as someone who has had the privilege of working closely with wonderful self-supporting colleagues for many years.
- The **Seal of the Confessional** is now under threat, and the catholic voice needs to be heard in its defence and in explaining why and how it remains integral to the Church's ministry.
- Above all, I want to see a Church of England that remains **faithful** to its inheritance, **confident** in proclaiming the Gospel, committed to its **parishes**, and determined to hand on the Faith to future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this address. I am committed to representing the clergy of the Diocese in General Synod actively. 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.