

# jules middleton

Standing for the House of Clergy, General Synod, By Election  
Proposer | Mother Arwen Folkes      Secondor | Rev Will Kemp

“ I warmly commend Jules for General Synod: I know her as a deeply insightful, inclusive, and grounded priest whose wisdom, integrity, and breadth of vision will be a gift to the Church’s national discernment ”

Mthr. Arwen Folkes, Vicar of Eastbourne

## in a nutshell...

Priest in Charge at St Edward’s, Burgess Hill. I have a heart for the parish at the centre of the community, inclusivity, & creation care. I’m a writer & researcher, wife & mum, love the outdoors, and I’ve lived in Sussex most of my life. I’m committed to the Church as a place of worship, of care and compassion, and of influence. I would be honoured if you would consider giving me your first preference vote for General Synod.

## faith life

Brought up attending the village church, I didn’t fully understand the riches of a personal faith until I was in my 30s when a builder shared his own faith with me. Jesus changed my life and subsequently I felt a call to ordained ministry, began working for a local Anglican church & later was selected for ordination training, being **ordained in 2016**. **Scripture, prayer, and the sacraments** are foundational to my personal life of faith.

## ministry life

Originally from an evangelical background, I now have experience of **ministering across a range of traditions** in the Church of England, and appreciate the value of her breadth. I believe strong **community links are vital in parish ministry** and have instigated community cafés, outreach events, toddler groups, support for the homeless, foodbanks, local networks and more. I am passionate about **caring for God’s creation** and have just completed an MA with a focus on **ecothology**. I led my church to a silver **eco church** award and we are about to apply for gold. I am a strong strategic thinker and am currently leading a church revitalisation project, a core part of which has been balancing the need to grow alongside existing traditions.

Outside of the parish I have been part of the Church of England **mentoring** scheme, I have **written widely on ministry life** including a book on life as a ministry mum. I have served on the **Diocesan Racial Justice Committee**, am part of the **Parish Environment Support Network**, and have led teaching sessions on **ecothology and outdoor worship** for the diocese.

## why synod?

I feel strongly that the Church of England plays a vital part in the life of this country and would like to take more of a role in its governance, at what feels a **crucial time**. I am a strong communicator and willing to speak out on issues that matter. I represent a range of views and traditions across the church and will be a **voice for unity in our difference**.



“ Jules is a person of integrity who loves Jesus, cares deeply about the church and works very hard to serve the family of God at St Edward's in Burgess Hill. ”

Rev Will Kemp, Vicar of St Andrew's, Burgess Hill

## the issues...

There are many pressing issues for General Synod coming up in the next year, these are a few close to my heart.

### parish life

The **parish model is the backbone** of the Church of England and one that remains vital as we minister across societal barriers, but we shouldn't be afraid of doing things differently too. I have ministered in a Fresh Expression with a Bishop's Mission Order, as part of an 'Apostolic Partnership', as well as in 'ordinary' parish life - **I am a fan of the mixed economy approach**. In my current context this has meant balancing the traditional and contemporary, sacramental and Word focussed services, as well as worship in nature.

### supporting ministry

I would however, like to see **more focus on smaller parishes, rural and deprived areas**; and **better support for clergy** in challenging contexts. Clergy give a huge amount to ministry life and we need to ensure we are adequately supported. I am pleased to see recent progress on increasing pensions and better housing, and would like to see much more done for **clergy wellbeing**.

### sustainability / net zero carbon 2030

We are in a climate emergency and I believe the Church of England needs to be a **key voice in matters of sustainability** and care for creation. I wholeheartedly support the route map to Net Zero carbon by 2030. I hope my knowledge and experience in this area will be useful to Synod.

### a church for all

As clergy we minister to a wide range of people, in varied contexts, not just in parish life. Over the last 14 years I've ministered in, and learned from, a range of church traditions and colleagues, which have given me a **deep appreciation for the diversity and richness of the church**. I personally support the Prayers of Love and Faith, and the LGBTQIA+ community, but also respect those who hold a different view and **believe we can remain united in Christ, even in our difference**. I also believe the church should be inclusive in all senses of the word. We need to **take seriously the lived experience of all** & aim to be intentional about inclusion across all areas including disabilities, neurodivergence, racial justice, and social background.

### in summary...

I bring experience across the breadth of the church, strategic thinking, a strong commitment to inclusivity, sustainability and ethical practices in the church, a passion for the parish and community, a desire to support and encourage clergy wellbeing, a strong voice, not afraid to speak truth to power.

“ Jules' passion for the care of creation and justice for those most impacted by the climate crisis, is rooted in her theological studies, and lived out in her leadership. She thinks deeply, communicates widely, draws in folk from across her community and speaks prophetically. ”