

Revd Steve Rees - Candidate for House of Clergy

If you have any questions, please be in touch.

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Proposer: Revd James di Castiglioni – Chanctonbury Church, Ashington

Seconder: Revd Lisa Fairman-Brown – All Saints Church Wick, Littlehampton



This is the first time I have offered myself for election to General Synod. I do so because I love the Church of England and long to see it grow and flourish as we work together to help more people know, love, and follow Jesus.

I am married to Jenny, and we have five children. Our eldest three are married, and we recently welcomed our first granddaughter. Our youngest two are still at home. Family life is full and joyful—with a dog and some chickens. I had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home, where my parents faithfully prayed with us and taught us the Bible. I came to faith in Jesus as a child, and through all the joys and challenges of life I have discovered Him to be a faithful Shepherd and wonderful Saviour.

When Jenny and I married, her Anglican church became our spiritual home. We served together in children's and youth ministry while teaching in primary schools, and it was during those years that God called me into ordained ministry.

I served my curacy in the Cotswolds in the Diocese of Gloucester, travelling between five rural churches. I then served as Vicar of a parish in Potters Bar, Diocese of St Albans, before becoming Vicar of All Saints, Crowborough, in the Diocese of Chichester, where I have had the joy of serving for the past ten years. I serve on Rotherfield Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod.

Parish ministry

While parish ministry is often challenging and complex, one of the greatest privileges has been seeing people of all ages and backgrounds gather to worship Jesus and then serve Him in church and in the community.

At All Saints, I have particularly valued:

- Seeing people come to faith through our outreach Life Series course, held in our local Wetherspoons, with many going on to be baptised and becoming active members of the church family.
- Developing a ministry among asylum seekers at the Crowborough accommodation centre, where I lead a weekly Bible study, welcome people into church life, and help connect them with churches when they move on.
- Building strong links with our Church of England primary school, welcoming children into church worship and sharing regularly in school life.

Priorities for General Synod

Evangelism, discipleship and leadership

The Church of England exists to help people discover the love of Jesus Christ and grow as his disciples. Across our nation there are encouraging signs of hope: people coming to faith, lives being transformed, and churches finding new ways to share the good news.

I want to encourage a Church that is confident in proclaiming the Gospel, committed to helping people grow as disciples, and intentional about developing leaders who serve with humility and courage. We should also seek to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy so that our time and energy are focused on mission and serving our communities.

Adoption, fostering and vulnerable children

Following the Church of England's apology for its historic role in the forced separation of unmarried mothers and their children, we have an opportunity to demonstrate practical compassion for vulnerable children and families today.

As an adoptive parent, this is deeply personal to me. I want to see the Church become an even stronger advocate for adoption and fostering; encouraging, equipping, and supporting those who offer loving homes to children in need. Because we have been adopted into God's family through Christ, we should be a Church that stands with vulnerable children, supports families in difficulty, and offers practical love and hope.

Human sexuality and marriage

The years ahead will require us to continue the important conversations emerging from the Living in Love and Faith process. These are deeply significant issues that require humility, compassion and careful listening.

My own convictions remain rooted in the traditional teaching of the Church on marriage and singleness. I hope that we will seek to be faithful to Scripture, attentive to the Holy Spirit, and shaped by the love and grace of Christ.

Safeguarding

As a parish minister, I know that nothing is more important than ensuring our churches are safe places for everyone. Failures in safeguarding cause deep harm and damage the Church's witness.

I am committed to helping the Church become a model of best practice, where the vulnerable are protected, survivors are heard, and every person is treated with dignity and care.

A hope-filled future

As an evangelical Christian, I believe the future is full of opportunity. Parish by parish, we can make Jesus known and see lives, families, and communities transformed by the hope and salvation He brings. General Synod has a unique opportunity to help drive the re-evangelisation of our nation, and that is something that genuinely excites me.

Thank you for reading this election address. I would be most grateful for your vote.