



CAROLINE ARMITAGE

Candidate for the House of Clergy

General Synod Election 2026

Diocese of Chichester

I am standing for General Synod to bring an experienced, inclusive and firmly parish-based voice to the decisions shaping the Church of England's next five years.

A brief biography

I am a late-vocation priest-in-charge of two rural parishes. Before ordination, I served as a churchwarden, PCC member and Reader, so I understand parish life from both lay and ordained perspectives. I am also a charity lawyer, a non-executive director in social housing, a trustee of St Augustine's Theological Education Institute and a supporter of Christian environmental charities. My own church background is broad: rooted in the evangelical tradition, enriched by charismatic and Celtic spirituality, and including helping to found the College of Anglican Catholic Women.

What I would bring to Synod

I would bring the practical judgement that comes from parish ministry, together with legal, governance and board-level experience. I am used to reading complex papers, asking difficult questions, weighing evidence and turning broad principles into workable decisions. My experience in housing and the charity sector has also taught me to keep the impact on people and communities in view when institutions debate structures, money and policy.

I know that good governance depends on scrutiny, transparency and respectful challenge. I will listen seriously to those with whom I disagree, but I will also speak plainly. Unity matters, but unity is not uniformity—and it should never require the voices or equality of some people to be sacrificed for the comfort of others.

My priorities for Synod

The next Synod will inherit difficult and unfinished business. If elected, I will focus particularly on:

Parish ministry that is properly resourced. Recent debates about clergy health and wellbeing, diocesan finances and the future shape of ministry all point to the same reality: the Church cannot sustain its national ambitions while exhausting its clergy and hollowing out its parishes. I will argue for fair, transparent and sustainable funding, with particular attention to rural, deprived and under-resourced communities. National and diocesan structures must strengthen local mission, not make it harder.

A Church that is fully inclusive in every respect. Welcome is not enough if people are still denied equality. I want LGBTQIA+ people, women, disabled and neurodivergent people, and people of every ethnicity and economic background to be able to participate equally in every aspect of the Church's life, ministry, leadership and sacraments. Following the formal conclusion of the Living in Love and Faith process and the establishment of further working groups, Synod must move beyond prolonged process towards honesty, consistency and full equality. I also want to continue to create spaces within the broad church that has always been the Church of England for those that hold different views but in a manner that is fully respectful of all views and not exclusionary or divisive. I believe strongly that we need to be able to disagree well.

Safeguarding that earns trust. Synod has recently backed a new safeguarding strategy intended to strengthen professional independence. The next Synod must ensure that promised reforms are implemented, properly funded and rigorously scrutinised, with victims and survivors heard and institutional self-protection challenged.

Justice that is practical. My legal work, social-housing experience and environmental commitments have convinced me that the Church must speak and act credibly on poverty, insecure housing, discrimination and the climate and ecological crisis. These are central to our public witness, not optional additions to it.

Formation for the whole Church. Good theological education should not be confined to those training for ordination. I want serious, accessible lifelong formation for clergy and lay people, equipping local churches to think well, grow in confidence and respond wisely to rapid social change.

Better Synodical culture and governance. Recent debates have shown the cost of opaque processes, polarisation and decisions that feel remote from parish realities. I will press for clear information, responsible stewardship, proper accountability and debate shaped by evidence and lived experience rather than factional point-scoring.

I would be honoured to serve the Diocese of Chichester and the wider Church. I would bring energy, independence of judgement, legal and governance expertise, parish realism and a clear commitment to a Church that is courageous, accountable and fully inclusive.

I would be very grateful for your first-preference, or highest possible, vote.

Nominated by:

Mthr Arwen Folkes – Vicar of St Mary's Eastbourne

Fr Mark Heather – vicar St Andrew & St Cuthman Steyning

Contact:

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Tom Carpenter

Why am I standing?

I am the Archdeacon of Chichester. It is an Archdeacon's job to care for the parish clergy, and to delight in their lives and work. I am standing as a candidate in this election because I see how hard life can be for parish priests, and I am certain that the General Synod is responsible for much of that hardship, and, therefore, that it can be used to make life

better for them.

What is the problem?

The parish church is the means God has given us to worship him, to live the Christian life, and to incorporate more and more people into that life. The character of a particular parish is made of many things, but mostly the parish priest. For a parish church to flourish it is vital for that parish's priest to flourish.

Recent research shows that many clergy are not flourishing. I was not surprised to hear at the recent Save the Parish conference that a third of incumbents show symptoms of depression and forty percent report chronic loneliness. The clergy make an heroic commitment to the Church, and many are being rewarded with miserable lives. In 2025 379 priests resigned, rather than wait for retirement to escape. The fall in the number of ordinands is largely attributable to those who may have a vocation walking away from it because they fear for their health and happiness if they follow it. The Church of England cannot go on like this.

What is answer? Save the Clergy!

I think the single biggest thing making the parish clergy unhappy is the weight of their responsibilities. Too much is being asked of fewer and fewer parish clergy. We are blessed in this diocese that the grouping of parishes has been much slower than elsewhere.

Nevertheless, here, as everywhere else in the Church of England, that is the inevitable end if the Church Commissioners continue to spend their money as they do now. Instead of using their resources for the purpose for which they were given – paying for priests in parishes – the General Synod has allowed the Commissioners to designate only 8% of their spending for parish ministry.

The first thing, then, that the Synod can do is to change the National Church Governance Measure so that the Church Commissioners' money is used for its proper purpose: supporting parish ministry. This will mean that dioceses are not forced to group parishes, and that the parish clergy are not given impossibly large jobs.

The second thing the Synod can do is to restore the dignity of traditional parish ministry. Too much money has been spent on, and too much attention given to, alternative forms of ministry. The Strategic Development Fund spent £176 million on such schemes, which, we

were told, would result in 89, 375 new disciples. Only 12, 704 were actually reported. Whilst these new initiatives multiply even as they fall short of their objectives, parish clergy can be made to feel guilty about their own attendance figures. Priests are not responsible for the drift of Western Civilisation away from the Church, a drift that has been noticeable all over Europe for a century. It is wrong in this context that the Church of England should use numbers as the only metric to judge the ministry of parish clergy. Real numerical growth does, thank God, happen, but in assessing the fruitfulness of a parish priest's ministry what they do and how they do it matters more to God, and, I believe, should matter more to the Church.

Save the Clergy! - Save the Parish! – Save the Church!

Even in the fairly short time I have been ordained, I have seen the job of a parish priest change in many ways, and not for the better. In the last few years, Save the Parish have stood up for clergy and their parishes in the General Synod, and that is why I thought I might be able to support them. My motive in offering myself for election is my belief, in the words of their manifesto, **that the parish system, properly resourced, remains the right way for the Church of England to be present in every community in this country.**

Save some other things!

Although my reason for standing for election is my desire to see the Save the Parish agenda carried out, it would be daft to pretend I have no other views that I would take with me. I am particularly concerned to protect the settlement by which women are ordained to the episcopate, and space is found for those of us of a different integrity, the Five Guiding Principles. As urgent is the task of preserving the Seal of the Confessional from well-intentioned but misguided attempts to qualify it. In this, I hope all sacramental Anglicans, of whatever view on other matters, will work together to keep such a powerful channel of God's mercy flowing through the Church of England. I hope that the whole Church can unite around its current teaching on marriage, but, if that proves impossible, that proper provision will be made for those that continue to teach it. The next Synod may also be the last chance to save full-time residential training Colleges. I owe so much to my time at Mirfield, and I hope that all who would benefit from the training I had will continue to receive it.

Above all, I would like the Diocese to be represented in the Synod by a Save the Parish candidate. If you think I might be able to help further their agenda, then I would be very grateful for your vote. If you would like to discuss any of this, do let me know by email.

archchichester@chichester.anglican.org

Revd Anita Colpus

Candidate for General Synod

Rector at TRINITY Lewes

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Please do contact me if you have any questions.

Proposer: Revd Sam Carter

Seconder: Revd Tim Crook



To my brothers and sisters in Chichester Diocese,

I am offering myself to serve the Diocese of Chichester and the wider Church in standing for election to General Synod. Some of you may be surprised to see this from me, as Synods are not my natural environment; however, I am deeply committed to the Church of England, its flourishing, and its call to be the body of Christ here on earth.

I have recently had the privilege of serving on the Vacancy in See Committee, and I am honoured to have been voted onto the CNC. As we continue with the process to appoint a new Bishop of Chichester, I want to assure you that I am wholeheartedly committed to the five guiding principles.

There are always significant challenges to face, and this next quinquennium will be no different. Being distinctively different as disciples of Jesus, and counter-cultural in an ever-growing secular country, we need to be committed to proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel, as Jesus showed and taught us. I am committed to doing this.

I pray frequently for renewal in the church and revival in our land: for people to encounter the living God through the Holy Spirit; to be transformed into His likeness; and to be obedient followers of Jesus.

As you prayerfully consider how to cast your vote, I would be honoured if you would entrust me with your first-preference vote (or second, or third....).

Please do contact me if that would be helpful as you ponder and pray.

With love and prayers,

Anita

About me.... I am married to Richard, and we have two daughters – Hannah is 20 and Rachel is 19, and we are in an early season of learning life with Max, our Cockapoo! I enjoy coffee with friends, musical theatre, jigsaws, holidaying in our caravan, walking by water, and getting up early before the rest of my family have realised the day has started!

I have been part of the Church of England all my life. I came to a personal faith at the age of 16, and have belonged to and served the Church in various ways ever since. I would describe myself as orthodox, evangelical, and charismatic in my theology and tradition.

2003 – Ordained and served my curacy at St Peter's, Notting Hill in London Diocese

2007 – Licensed to a benefice in Sittingbourne (Canterbury Diocese) while my primary focus was caring for my two young daughters.

2010 – Vicar at St Luke's, Reigate (Southwark Diocese)

2021 – Rector at TRINITY Lewes (Chichester Diocese)

There are clearly many complex and important issues that the Church of England is addressing; below are just some of the topics that I am particularly passionate about:

Clergy well-being: I regularly hear from my colleagues and friends about the pressure and demands they feel, and how that is impacting their mental health and general well-being. I am also concerned about the inappropriate use of clergy disciplinary measures, and just how vulnerable clergy have been to being put under a CDM when it has perhaps not been the correct or best process for a given situation. I'm aware that this has been on the General Synod agenda, and that change is coming, and I would certainly engage with any future related discussions around this work.

Vocations: I am passionate about seeing people pursuing the vocation God calls them to. The depth and breadth of the CofE should be reflected fully and fairly, which requires a range of appropriate pathways, for the whole body of Christ to flourish and grow, so that people can be equipped and released to serve the Church as God calls and leads.

Confidence in the Good News of Jesus: Without giving you a sermon, I believe we sometimes appear to have lost confidence in, and have watered down, the gospel; we appear to have lost our boldness to witness Jesus in our communities. Secularism dominates society, and the Church has lost her way. (I am obviously generalising, and I don't intend to offend, but space here is limited!) I am willing to be courageous and encourage change in how we 'do church', and to encourage fresh ways to demonstrate and proclaim the good news of Jesus. We need fresh ideas for evangelism, discipleship, and gathered worship – bold, I know, but necessary, I believe.

Safeguarding... Finance... Human Identity and Sexuality... these (and more) are also pressing and sensitive topics demanding General Synod's attention. I would gladly give of my best to engage in a constructive and Christlike manner in all debates, in His strength.

Please be assured that I commit to pray and prepare for meetings of General Synod. If I am elected, I would of course be glad to listen more to you – to understand more fully your context, your situations, your priorities, and what you would like to see on the agenda at General Synod.

Thank you for reading this, and I would be extremely grateful for your high preference vote.

Thank you.

With love and prayers

Anita

The Rev Dr Jack Dunn

Standing for the House of Clergy, General Synod 2026 · Diocese of Chichester

In a nutshell

I am Chaplain at Brighton College, with Permission to Officiate across the Diocese, where I help to lead services. I worship in Ovingdean parish.

I am a lifelong Anglican and love the breadth of the Church of England, having worshipped in middle-of-the-road, Evangelical, and Anglo-Catholic parishes. What matters most to me is integrity in worship.

I fell in love with Jesus Christ when I was seven and felt called to be a priest at 11. I spent the next 20 years thinking that there must be better people to ordain than me. Most days, I still do.

Ordained ministry

I trained at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and have been ordained for 15 years. I have served in parishes across four dioceses, worshipped in churches in three more, and been attached to chaplaincies connected to two others, so I am blessed to know something of the breadth of the Church of England.

Why Synod?

As a former Parish Development Officer for the Diocese, I feel well equipped to represent all of our diocesan clergy on Synod. I believe in working together, across difference, to achieve meaningful change.

I know the importance of careful and attentive listening, particularly to what is not being said; of dispassionate advocacy; and of consistently standing up for those on the margins. I will communicate clearly to our Diocese what the issues are, and consult members across the Diocese for their wisdom and guidance.

Wider roles

My training incumbent taught me the importance of being involved in the wider life of the Church, and of serving wider society. Key roles include:

- Trustee of Clergy Support Trust, and of St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing
- Volunteer for MAPPA Essex (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)
- Vocations Adviser for three dioceses
- Helping the Church of England's working group on Safeguarding Independence
- Establishing a winter night shelter for people experiencing homelessness, and leading a Community Sponsorship Scheme for a refugee family
- Working with the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust: 27 schools across three dioceses
- Designing and leading a diocesan growth course
- Serving on Diocesan Synod, and on Diocesan Environmental and Racial Justice committees
- Enabling lay vocations, and working with children and young people across the theological breadth of the Church to develop faith, participation, agency, and involvement



PROPOSER

The Revd Canon Lisa Barnett

SECONDER

Mother Arwen Folkes

QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to contact me:
jdunn@brightoncollege.net

BEFORE ORDINATION

- A D.Phil. in Irish history, then teaching history
- Volunteering in a London prison and with the Samaritans
- Magistrate in the adult criminal and family courts

SPIRITUAL HOME

I identify most with the Benedictine tradition, and for the last two decades I have been nurtured and resourced by Douai Abbey in Berkshire.

"Jack works with wisdom and sensitivity across the theological breadth of the Church of England. His experience of ministry in parishes, at the Cathedral, in chaplaincy and at diocesan and national level, working across the full diversity of theological traditions, has given him a thoughtful voice to contribute to General Synod. He combines significant theological rigour with pastoral sensitivity, as well as an astute awareness of the strategic issues facing the Church of England. I am delighted to be supporting his candidacy".

The Revd Canon Lisa Barnett, Rector, Horsham Team Parish

What I care about

If you are looking for someone who knows how they will vote on every issue, then you should not vote for me. If I knew that, there would be little point in taking part in debate.

I do have some fixed points, and I want to be transparent about them. Above all: maintaining breadth and integrity across God's Church, with the parish at its very heart, and all of the people of God treated with respect, integrity, and kindness at all times. Four issues coming to Synod are close to my heart.

Safeguarding

I believe that church safeguarding has a much wider impact in our communities than we often realise. When I was growing up, my local church truly was a safe space. I went alone but never felt alone. Church became my family, and it saved my life.

The next Synod must make significant decisions about safeguarding. My focus will be on what this means on the ground, particularly for parishes, where finding and keeping willing and able volunteers can be an uphill struggle. Fortunately, I have good relationships with those who hold the Church to account, including INEQE. This helps triangulate information and maintain accountability.

Care of the clergy, trust, and accountability

In my lifetime I have seen a growing gap in care for the clergy: our hierarchy has had to become managers, with little bottom-up accountability for clergy care. As a trustee of two of the largest and oldest clergy care charities for the last 12 years, I see the national picture of clergy wellbeing at first hand. I know the places that do this well, and how.

More and more ministers and their families are ill or in trouble, with little sense that anyone has their backs. This is distressing. Synod members must raise this issue, and keep raising it, until something changes. To do that effectively, we need independent national data to drive accountability and change.

Sex and sexuality

I pray for an age where LGBTQIA+ people are not seen as an 'issue' to be solved: an age where we talk about 'us', not 'us and them'. I long for a kinder, more charitable Church and Synod, where we see what unites us first and genuinely celebrate it, showing the world how the Christian way is to love one another, and to have and to hold difference, as we seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness.

On same-sex marriage, I believe that priests should have the ability to decide who they marry, according to their own consciences and in consultation with the communities of faith that they lead. I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

Money and the marginalised

Too much money is held at the centre, and conversations about how it is allocated and spent happen in rooms that are not representative of the Church. Nationally, we need to get much better, fairer, and faster at releasing funding for mission and ministry across the entire breadth of the Church of England. I have a good sense of how the different calls for funding add up, and where the neglected areas remain, including rural ministry. Meaningful change will need Synod members to work together. If elected, that is what I will do.

"I have seen first-hand how Jack's devotion to Christ and the Church is clearly reflected in his deep care for the wellbeing of all clergy; I have no doubt that he will work tirelessly at Synod to this end and warmly commend Jack for your support for General Synod". **Laura Steven**, Head of Wellbeing for Clergy and Families, Diocese of Chichester

Working together

A strength of the Church of England is its diversity. We need to get much better at celebrating our differences and working together.

'Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you'. ~ 2 Corinthians 13.11

I would be honoured if you would consider giving me your first preference, or a high preference, vote. I will work with integrity for the welfare of the whole Church, whose breadth I care about passionately. Please do get in contact (jdunn@brightoncollege.net) as I am always happy to chat.

"I strongly commend Jack for General Synod. He would bring to it a deep love for Jesus Christ and the Church (national and local), an ability to work effectively across all traditions, a prayerful understanding of our deepest issues and a Gospel inspired vision".

The Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins, Canon Chancellor, Chichester Cathedral, and former Officer for Continuing Ministerial Development and Vicar of St John the Baptist, Hove

IAN HENRY EDGAR

Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, Sidley (Bexhill-on-Sea).

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Nominated by: Thomas James Cotterill, Priest-in-Charge of St John the Divine, West Worthing and St Andrew the Apostle, Worthing.

Seconded by: Alice Elizabeth Smith, Vicar of The Good Shepherd, Brighton

About me: Born in Canada to British parents in 1978, I moved to England and was ordained deacon in 2018 and priest in 2019, serving my title in the Parishes of Durrington and Maybridge and West Tarring. I became Associate Vicar of the Parishes of Lancing with Coombes and South Lancing and Sompting from 2021 to 2023. In 2024 my two (then) teenage sons and I moved to All Saints, Sidley where I was licensed as priest-in-charge. Prior to ordination I worked in agriculture as well as with adults with learning disabilities, both of which continue to inform my concerns and my desire that the Church of England act practically and compassionately at every level.

Where I live and minister: Here in Sidley, we have seen the ministry and mission of the church grow in the last two years. New and deeper links with the church school (All Saints Primary) next door have grown. I visit the school once a week for assembly, and we run an after-school club in church which is based round the reading of The Chronicles of Narnia and ending with worship. We have seen an encouraging response from the community, including being blessed with a number of adult Baptisms and Confirmations, and two weddings of couples who have recently come to faith and become part of our community. The financial struggles are real in Sidley, and we are in one of the most deprived areas of Chichester Diocese, and indeed the whole of England. So much has changed since All Saints Church was completed in 1930, and there is a lot of cultural alienation and generational unemployment. Finding work is difficult and the centuries long pattern of Sunday as a day of rest, quiet, and recreation – as well as worship – has changed. Still the community knows the church is there for them praying and providing space, for our monthly coffee mornings, local community groups, and the occasional concert.

My hopes for the future: These rapidly changing times call for calm reflection and a holding firm to the catholic faith (that is “according to the whole church”) that the Church of England has received. We are faced with issues, questions, and problems that our forebears never imagined. It is my firm belief that the catholic faith handed down by the Apostles is an evangelical faith – that is, Good News, not bad news. Our call, our task, is to proclaim this faith with humility, courage and confidence. We are to meet people where they are, as they are, to let them know that their lives have meaning and purpose in Christ. The danger is in wanting to “water down” this proclamation, or to distil it so much that it cannot be received by anyone. Like our forebears we must be ready to discern who needs milk or meat.

We must also remember that the Church in her truest self is the Body of Christ, assembled to meet the Crucified and Risen Lord in opening of Scripture and breaking of Bread. The parish church must be the focus of institutional support, and support for the central bodies and the diocese must be in effect our support of other parish churches, or we are not being true to the Catholic and Apostolic faith. Just as the early Church grew by personal encounter, service, and invitation, so too will the Church in our day grow. Strategy, planning, and bureaucracy have some place, but only insofar as they are servants of the personal encounter between Christians and those to whom the Good News is being proclaimed. Likewise, the interior life of the Church must be of paramount importance, both on a community and individual level. The rightful concerns about safeguarding come down to the virtue of chastity, that is, not seeing others as “resources” to be exploited, but fellow human beings for whom Christ died. Putting things in their proper order, for example safeguarding mechanisms are an important bulwark against unvirtuous behaviour, we will begin to nurture real communities of welcome, communities in which the growth in holiness is the paramount concern.

To sum up some of my key concerns:

- The parish: That the central bodies of the Church of England church should be primarily concerned to support the mission and ministry of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church in particular places. The more local presence Christians have, the more able we are to witness to Christ – ordained ministry is an important part of this, as are our church buildings.
- That safeguarding be taken seriously and seen as an extension of the virtues that Christian people willingly embrace, rather than an external discipline imposed upon us.
- That the “Seal of the Confessional” be preserved – that is, a completely confidential place for those whose consciences are troubled know they can come to “open their grief” as the Prayer Book says. It is my firm conviction that any person who comes to make a private confession comes out of a sense of contrition and a willingness to face and make amends for their sins – not as a way to get out of punishment.
- The Five Guiding Principles allow for genuine inclusivity in the Church of England and should be preserved as an example of charitable disagreement and waiting upon the Lord.

My hope as a member of the General Synod is to be part of the renewal of the Church of England, as we remember that her life is lived in the local communities that make her up. I also wish, as a theological conservative, to contribute to the wider discussions around identities – whether they be gender, national, ecclesial, in a charitable way and with much liberality. These are truly unprecedented times, and as Christians we need to hold fast to the faith we’ve received, as well as keeping our eyes, ears, and hearts open to where the Holy Spirit is moving and calling us. The Church of England is in many ways uniquely placed for this discernment in these times. I also wish to be a part of reminding ourselves that every person – no matter their age, ability, history, or identity – is called to be renewed, born again by water and the Holy Spirit, and turn from paths that lead only to sorrow – to following the true shepherd who lays His life down for His sheep, to the still waters where He will restore us.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or wish to discuss anything matters I have raised.

With the "donkey" after All Saints' Primary Nativity in Church





Jonathan Fraiss LLB, BA, Dip. Theol
Rector of St Mark's Church, little Common (Bexhill-on-Sea)

Proposer: the Revd Paddy MacBain, Vicar of All Saints, Danehill (Deanery of Uckfield)

Seconder: the Revd Tim Crook, Vicar of St Mary Magdalene, South Bersted
(Arundel and Bognor Deanery)

Dear fellow clergy in the Diocese of Chichester,

What I stand for

- God himself, as revealed in Christ, whose glory we seek
- The gospel of God's wonderful acts, centred on the cross and resurrection
- Godly living, empowered by the Spirit, as we grow in knowledge of the Saviour

Who I am

I am 61 years old (born in 1965) and was married to Ruth in 1999. We have four children. The oldest lives in London, the middle two are at university, and one is entering Hastings Sixth Form College. They all went through the C of E Secondary School in Eastbourne (St Catherine's). I have been at St Mark's for twenty-one years and thank God that St Mark's is growing and paying its PMC. I was Rural Dean of Battle and Bexhill from 2015 to 2025.

I am Chair of Churches Together in Bexhill (overseeing the work of Bexhill Foodbank and Advice Centre) and convenor of the ecumenical clergy group. I am also Chaplain to the Royal British Legion (village branch) and work closely with Scouting packs and Guiding groups. My hobbies are reading history, sea swimming, and walking with my family along the coast. I am a member of the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship and Church Society.



Prior to that, I was Anglican Chaplain in Kyiv (Ukraine), 1999-2005, and Assistant Chaplain at St Andrew's, Moscow, 1996-99 (supported by Intercontinental Church Society, an Anglican Mission Agency). Twice a month I convene a prayer meeting for Ukraine. For several years I was a board member for a mission society operating in Central Asia which supported churches in Islamic regions of the Former Soviet Union, and Iran and Afghanistan.

Contact me on 01424 843 733 or Rector@stmarkslittlecommon.co.uk

The challenges ahead

Vision and Strategy. At a time of spiritual searching, clergy need to be encouraged to maintain the integrity of the Anglican tradition which is both Catholic and Reformed. Our mission is parish-based and should have the full support of the Church Commissioners.

Marriage and Children. Family deterioration has assisted the youth mental health crisis. Let us be known for supporting marriage, motherhood and fatherhood.

Vocations and CDMs. Clergy work long hours for little pay and receive much criticism while feeling isolated. They proclaim good news but the threat of legal challenge is intimidating. Systems and structures must be just and fair so that they operate with integrity and care.

LLF (Living in Love and Faith). I welcome the end of this process and the dismissal in the July session of General Synod this year of a Private Member's Motion to weaken the teaching of the Church of England as set out in the marriage service. But the issue has not gone away! We need to support the House of Bishops' acceptance of the Legal Officers' advice that stand-alone services for same-sex couples is a change of doctrine and requires two-thirds majorities in each of the Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity.

Women and Men in Ministry. I accept the wisdom and pragmatism of the Five Guiding Principles in supporting mutual flourishing.

Environmental issues. The drive to Net Zero is too heavy-handed, causes unnecessary problems in the parishes, and needs to become more flexible.

Legacy issues. Project Spire is a well-intended but unworkable initiative to make reparations for the slave trade. It would be better to remember the part played by Christians in Britain in ending the slave trade and to invest in tackling modern slavery.

Issues around the start and end of life. The latest effort to introduce Assisted Suicide is a huge sadness and the decriminalisation of abortion up to birth under the Crime and Policing Act is a tragedy. May the Church defend the vulnerable and stand for the voiceless.

Global challenges. We need to stand against violent aggressors such as the current regimes in Russia and Iran. Meanwhile, let us identify with the persecuted church in North Korea, China, Afghanistan, northern Nigeria and elsewhere.

Thank you, Jonathan

Please give me your Number One preference vote.

"We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory" – A General Thanksgiving, BCP
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ELECTION ADDRESS

Christine Keyte

House of Clergy · vicar@allsaintscrawleydown.org



GROWING UP IN TWO TRADITIONS

For much of my life, I have been interested in how people and communities find ways of working together when they do not see things in the same way. I think that comes partly from growing up in South Africa, in a Greek Orthodox and Methodist family, and from being involved in church committees and synods from a young age. I was involved in Methodist committees and synods from the age of sixteen, including work with young people and ministry in communities divided by apartheid, when even meeting together for services or worship could be profoundly difficult.

SEEING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

My understanding of what the Church can be was also shaped by the Anglican witness I encountered as a young person. Trevor Huddleston was a particular inspiration. I was deeply moved by Desmond Tutu's account of meeting Huddleston as a child. It said something very important about the kind of community the Church could be. I later had the privilege of being stationed in Soweto as a minister, at a time when South Africa was working out how to build for the future. My experience there reinforced for me that reconciliation does not require us to pretend that our differences are not real. It requires us to find ways of living and working together despite them.

A WAY OF BEING CHURCH

That is part of what has drawn me to the way the Church of England works: how we make decisions, how we live with difference, and how our structures can help us build for the future. We live in a deeply divided society and world, and the Church is not immune from that division. I am concerned about what happens when positions become entrenched and we lose the ability to hear one another. I don't think the answer is generic agreement. That is neither possible nor, I suspect, particularly Anglican. Scripture and tradition give us something deeper than our individual opinions. Our Anglican tradition gives us a way of debating, reasoning and listening, while still seeking common ground. It is not about being right or winning the debate, but about discerning how we might continue to live together as the Church of Christ and for me, that is what being in community is about.

THE REALITY OF PARISH LIFE

The Church is not simply an organisation. It is people gathered in particular places: the cure of souls, prayer for the community and for the world, and the real, sometimes challenging, privilege of walking alongside people in the reality of their lives. It is incarnational ministry — being there, day after day, holding on to peace, hope and charity when the world around us is uncertain. After thirty years in ministry, I am increasingly aware of how much the structures around parish life matter. Complexity, competing expectations and fragmentation can have a real effect on the people who are trying to serve their communities. I would want to bring that experience into the conversation about how we shape our structures so that they support, rather than hinder, clergy and all people in our parishes.

AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

I also believe that this understanding of community has to include everyone. Inclusivity is part of what it means to be the Church: a community centred in Christ, embracing different experiences, identities and convictions. For me, that means marriage equality, and fully recognising the gifts and vocation of LGBT+ people within the life of the Church. At the same time, I recognise that we come to questions of theology and identity from differing perspectives, shaped by our own experiences and convictions. I believe profoundly that we are all equal



in Christ. No particular way of being should be viewed as better than another. That does not mean that our differences disappear. It means living in community with those differences, recognising that they are part of the framework in which we are called to be Church.

WHAT I WOULD BRING TO SYNOD

My experience of different traditions — South African, Methodist, Greek Orthodox and Anglican — has left me with a deep respect for the breadth of the Christian tradition. I would bring to Synod a reflective and listening perspective, shaped by that experience and by thirty years of ministry. I am not looking for grand solutions or easy answers, but I would hope to be someone who:

- listens before speaking
- is prepared to ask difficult questions
- is comfortable with disagreement
- takes seriously what another perspective has to teach

HOPE IN OUR DIVERSITY

We have inherited a long tradition that has, over the centuries, found creative and careful ways forward in the face of enormous social change and deeply held differences. I would like us to keep doing that — making space for mutual flourishing and seeking always to hear one another. I am hopeful about the future of the Church of England precisely because we are so varied. The vastness of our community and the richness of our traditions are among our greatest strengths.



REVD JO KING

Rector of the Benefice of
Chidham & Hambrook with
Funtington with West Stoke &
Sennicotts



A BIT ABOUT ME

Since moving to Chichester, after finishing university, the south coast has found its way into my soul. The combination of sea and hills is difficult to beat. The Diocese of Chichester is a wonderful place to live and minister and I am passionate about making the diocese a safe and inclusive place where everyone is welcomed to worship and offer their gifts.

Before ordination I worked in education, particularly working with those excluded from mainstream provision, those children on the edges of the education system. This taught me that offering time and care can turn a life around.

My spare time was used volunteering with the church, getting involved in the start of 24-7 prayer, Cultural Shift and student church in Portsmouth. After feeling drawn to ordination I found my way up the candle learning to appreciate the complexity and richness that comes from liturgical, eucharistic worship. My sending church was St George's Whyke, I trained at Ripon Cuddesdon on the mixed mode track, I served my title at St Thomas à Becket, Pagham, my first incumbency was at Holy Cross, North Bersted Bognor, and I moved to my current benefice about a year ago.

PARISH LIFE

Parish ministry is definitely the one for me. I love the variety, the complexity, the multi-tasking and opportunities to connect not just with people of faith but those in the community. Even though it can be challenging and thankless at times. I love the variety of people I meet each day from the oldest to the youngest in our society offering them love and hope however it is needed. If I could wish for just one thing, it would be easier to manage churchyard procedures!

I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health neurodiversity or equality

WHAT MATTERS TO ME

Some ideas about the areas of General Synod's work that might be important to me and indicators on how I might vote on particular issues.

- **Young people and children**

Through my roles as Padre to the Air Cadets and part of the clergy team at Bishop Luffa I get to spend time with amazing young people who are passionate about all sort of things. I also get to see the challenges they face from all sides and would always look for ways in which the church can facilitate and encourage their understanding of God's unconditional love for them.

- **Safeguarding**

There is still work to be done to ensure that our safeguarding legislation is the best in the world I would support survivor led, trauma informed and independent policies.

- **Parish Ministry**

It is important to me that General Synod represents and understands the concerns of local parish priests, those doing the job on the ground. In my current role I am learning more about the challenges of being present in different communities at the same time. We need to keep reimagining our worship and church life to enable us to share God's love with each generation, whilst ensuring that we are not expecting our parish priests to be all things to all people all the time to the detriment of their health.

- **Disability access**

As part of the disability advisory team in the Diocese, we are working hard to encourage everyone to consider access in all their efforts. I am particularly interested in the work Synod is doing to support and encourage the vocations of disabled or neurodiverse clergy, we need to inspire creative ways of rethinking ministry that allows everyone to flourish.

- **Equality of opportunity**

Whilst much has been done on some areas of equality within the church, there are still opportunities for rigged applications processes and less than transparent appointment procedures. Robust, fair and transparent processes benefit everyone.

A massive thank you to those people who have believed in me enough to nominate me, Revd Lisa Barnett and Father Paul Armstead, I appreciate your support and encouragement. Also to those who offered to support me, including Mother Jessica Reid and Rev Buff Stone.

There is not really enough room to mention all the areas I am interested in. Here are a few more highlights:
the environmental crisis
clergy wellbeing
clergy pensions & pay
financial burden of the upkeep of ancient buildings
worship for each generation

Please make me your first preference vote!



Revd Canon Martha Mutikani

Candidate for General Synod - House of Clergy

Diocese of Chichester

Proposer:

Revd Jules Middleton

revjulesmiddleton@gmail.com

Seconder:

Canon John Wall

uckfielddirector@gmail.com

"That they may all be one" (John 17:21)

Why I am standing

I am offering myself for election to General Synod because I care deeply about the life, mission and future of the Church of England.

I believe Synod needs people rooted in parish ministry who will listen across difference, speak with courage and compassion, and keep Christ at the centre.

If elected, I would represent the clergy of Chichester faithfully while contributing to the wider mission and governance of the Church.

About me

I am Vicar of St Augustine's, Scaynes Hill, and previously served as Associate Vicar in the Uckfield Plurality. Ordained in 2015, I have served in a variety of parish contexts.

Alongside parish ministry, I have contributed to the wider life of the Diocese through supporting women in ministry, racial justice and vocational formation. I am also a Prebendal Canon of Chichester Cathedral.

My professional background in occupational health brings experience of wellbeing, governance, risk and resilience - perspectives I believe would be valuable to General Synod.

Mission and parish life

The local church is at the heart of my vocation. I want national structures and decisions to strengthen rather than burden parish ministry. I am passionate about mission, children and young people, and churches where people encounter Christ and know that they belong.

What I would bring

Clergy wellbeing and sustainable ministry. Drawing on my experience as both a parish priest and occupational health professional, I would advocate for clergy wellbeing, appropriate support and healthy working practices, including greater understanding of disability and neurodiversity.

Representation and racial justice. As a priest of Global Majority Heritage and of African origin, I am conscious that GMH clergy remain underrepresented in aspects of the Church's leadership and governance. I am not standing simply to represent one group: I want decision-making to reflect more fully the breadth of the Body of Christ.

Unity across difference. Our Church contains different traditions, cultures and theological convictions. I would listen before speaking, engage respectfully with those with whom I disagree, and seek common ground without avoiding difficult issues.

Good governance and accountability. My professional experience has taught me the importance of good governance, safeguarding, accountability and learning from mistakes. These are not separate from mission; they help create a Church worthy of people's trust.

If elected

I would bring parish experience, a commitment to clergy wellbeing and racial justice, professional knowledge of occupational health and governance, and a Global Majority Heritage perspective.

I will listen to the clergy of our Diocese, remain accessible, speak with courage and seek to represent your concerns faithfully.

I would be grateful for your support and prayers.

Rooted in parish ministry. Listening across difference. A voice for the whole Church.

REVD. MARTIN POOLE
Vicar of St. Luke's Prestonville
64a Old Shoreham Road
Brighton, BN1 5DD
07712 077965
martin@stlukesonline.co.uk



Proposer: Ven. Martin Lloyd-Williams
Seconder: Ven. Angela Martin

SUMMARY: I have been a dedicated and passionate member of General Synod for the past five years and I bring continuing experience as a representative of the Diocese of Chichester. For the last two years I was the convener of the Chichester representatives. I am a member of Together for the Church of England and a keen advocate for the importance of the parish as a focus for mission and align myself with Save the Parish.

My personal spirituality draws on a range of traditions from the complete spectrum of Anglican practice. My intention is 'to preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words' (attributed to St. Francis).

I am a community focused priest with strategic vision and understanding, passionate about mission and doing ministry creatively. I am grateful to God that the church I serve in Brighton is growing, diverse and multi-age with a passion for social welfare.

BIOGRAPHY

I have been in this diocese since 1999, initially as a non-stipendiary minister and then as vicar of St. Luke's Prestonville in Brighton since 2010. Before this I was a TV producer, creating identities for TV channels such as BBC2, SKY, and ITV and working with international broadcasters such as Al Jazeera, TV4 Sweden and RTL Germany. Prior to this I was an actor prompted by my involvement in drama while training for ministry at St. John's Nottingham. I am married and have three adult children.

DIOCESAN INVOLVEMENT

I have been actively involved in diocesan affairs since moving to Hove in 1999. In 2009 I conducted a communications review for the diocese in my capacity as a media consultant. This led to me advising on diocesan communications including reshaping the magazine into its current 'Faith in Sussex' format. I have run training on fresh expressions and mission for Lay Readers and Spiritual Directors as well as providing workshops and being a keynote speaker nationally on creative liturgy and alternative worship. In 2014 I worked with then Director of Mission, Richard Jackson to collate results from a Deanery consultation and present this to senior staff followed by co-writing the Diocesan strategy which resulted in the mission statement 'To Know, Love and Follow Jesus'.

GENERAL SYNOD RECORD 2021 - 2026

I have attended every session in person over the last quinquennium and been present for every debate. I voted for an increase in clergy stipends and pensions and actively participated in a variety of debates. Contributions to Synod include:

- Moving a friendly amendment to a motion from Oxford Diocese 'Responding to the Climate Emergency' in discussion with the Bishop of Reading.
- Working with GMH colleagues on Synod to write and move an amendment to the Triennium Funding Plans for 2027-2029 to restore the Racial Justice budget to an appropriate level.
- Joining the LLF working group in September 2024 and contributing to these discussions until the process was halted earlier this year.
- Member of a communications task group in relation to the Spire reparative justice project from September 2024, work which is still ongoing.
- Elected to the Mission and Public Affairs Council in October 2025 which works with the Faith in Public Life team to explore all aspects of social and political welfare in order to inform the Lords Spiritual and engage with Parliament.

Common Good

I am Diocesan lead for Modern Slavery as a member of the Council for the Promotion of the Common Good. In this role I founded an ecumenical partnership to create a network of Modern Slavery Ambassadors to raise awareness of this issue. I am currently working with the Diocesan Racial Justice Co-ordinator on a variety of projects and I represent Chichester on the South Eastern Dioceses Social Action/Social Justice Network.

Since 2010 I have been Chair of St. Luke's Advice Service providing benefit and debt advice in Brighton & Hove. As vicar of St. Luke's Prestonville I have established a partnership with the Real Junk Food Project to provide lunches for anyone in need, serving hundreds of folk every week. I have facilitated the development of a number of initiatives for those in recovery including the world's first recovery orchestra.

CREATIVE MINISTRY & MISSION

Having a creative background has greatly informed my ministry and I seek to bring this to every aspect of my work as a priest and a member of General Synod

I established **Beyond** in 2008 as an initiative to connect Christian spirituality with the artistic culture of Brighton & Hove. I created the world's first **Beach Hut Advent Calendar** on Hove seafront which ran from 2008-2019 reminding people of the Christian origin of advent and the true meaning of Christmas. This involved hundreds of participants and thousands of attendees and in 2014 I received a **Point of Light award from the Prime Minister** for my contribution to the community. I was involved in content creation for the **Greenbelt** arts, faith and justice festival from 2009 running the Sunday morning communion service for 15,000 people twice and heading up the worship programming team from 2011-2014.

I am an author and my book writing credits include:

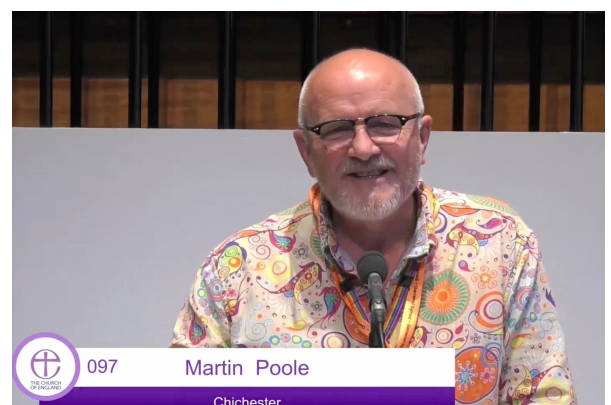
- Contributed a chapter to '**Transforming Christian Thought in the Visual Arts**'.
- '**Church Beyond Walls**' about the creative projects run by Beyond
- '**Real Life Rev**' a behind the scenes description of clergy life in an urban Brighton parish.
- Contributed a chapter to '**Project Kindness**' about doing justice in hostile times

ISSUE POSITIONING

I am resistant to being boxed into positions on various issues but I understand that in an election it is helpful to know the opinion of the candidates on pertinent topics. So here is an outline of my stance on some of the issues of the moment. I also want to make it clear that whilst I hold these opinions, I would not wish to impose these on others and I believe that the great strength of the church is our unity in Christ which allows us to still love each other when we disagree.

- **The Bible** – My evangelical roots have given me a strong focus on the centrality of the Bible and I seek to use my critical faculties in my exegesis and interpretation of scripture.
- **Relationships** – I wish to support anyone who wants to commit to a long-term relationship with their partner. This includes our LGBTQI+ brothers and sisters and I hope that we will be able to fully affirm their relationships in church in bespoke services soon. I have regularly taken part in the annual Brighton Pride parade and believe it is an important act of witness.
- **Equality** – I am passionate about equality at all levels and roles in the church and I encourage the ministry of all regardless of disability, neurodiversity, social class, ethnicity or sexuality.
- **Safeguarding** - I believe church safeguarding should be managed externally to the church.
- **Politics** – I support any politicians who show a concern for the environment and have a focus on the social welfare of those least well off in society.

If I am elected to General Synod I will seek to represent the views of my colleagues in this diocese whilst my voting will be in accordance with the principles outlined above. I always respond to any emails or letters sent to me about General Synod and take all correspondence seriously. I hope you have enough information here to convince you to give me your first preference vote and I am very happy to respond to any questions you may have using the contact details above.



Revd Steve Rees - Candidate for House of Clergy

If you have any questions, please be in touch.

Email steve@allsaintscrowborough.org

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.



REVD TOM ROBSON CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL SYNOD

Vicar, St John's Southbourne with West Thorney
ADDO, Bishop's Adviser for Vocations

271 Main Road, Southbourne
West Sussex, PO10 8JE
07380 563092

tom.robson@stjohnssouthbourne.com

Nominated by:
Revd Vanessa Baron, Canon Treasurer, Chichester Cathedral
Seconded by:
Revd Brendan Martin, Rector of Frant with Eridge

Dear Clergy Colleagues,

I'm sure like me you are aware of some significant challenges facing the Church. Although daunting at times, I believe in a faithful God who continues to work through the Church of England to see lives and eternities transformed by the good news of Jesus and the witness, worship and service of his people. I am standing for General Synod because the more time I've spent serving in the Church of England, the more I have grown to love who we are and the way we seek to serve God locally and nationally. I want to see parishes, ministers and the whole people of God flourish, and I believe that in Christ, that can and does happen.

I am going to share a little about me, my priorities and what I see as significant for the next Quinquennium of General Synod. If you feel that I might represent you well on Synod, then I would be grateful for your high preference vote. Please also feel free to get in touch if you'd like to discuss any of these things further.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless you in your ministry,

About me

I am married with three daughters, and for the last three years have been vicar of St John's in the parish of Southbourne with West Thorney, just to the west of Chichester. I love living between the sea and the Downs, and enjoy walking to the coast when I can. I spend time playing and listening to a variety of music, and trying to perfect my coffee brewing(!)

My experience of ministry is rooted in the everyday realities of the local parish, and in Chichester Diocese in particular. I served as Youth and Families Missioner for St Augustine's, Scaynes Hill, prior to ordination. After training at Ridley Hall, I was Curate in Angmering, then Incumbent of Wick and Lyminster and now in Southbourne. I have served on a number of Diocese committees, and have a particular interest in vocations and helping discern and grow the calling and gifts of laity and clergy.

Priorities

The Parish as the Heart of Mission

The parish must remain the heart of the Church of England's mission. I have friends in other churches who do great things, but no denomination has the same commitment to people and prayer covering every inch of our country. I believe that local parishes thrive when we are trusted and resourced, and faithful to our calling. I had the privilege of serving as acting Archdeacon of Chichester last year, and my interactions with clergy, PCCs and parishes gave me optimism that God is still at work, building his kingdom. At Synod, I will advocate for policies and funding streams that simplify and share administrative burdens, protect local resources, and free clergy and lay leaders to focus on making disciples. That was my intended focus when writing this year's Lent Course, I hope it was helpful if you used it.

Nurturing Calling & Gifting

Every member of the church has a God-given calling. I have tried to encourage this in the parishes where I have served, and through my roles as Young Vocations Adviser and Assistant DDO for this Diocese, and as a Bishop's Adviser on the national selection panels. It's exciting meeting people of all ages wanting to explore God's calling. It's important that Synod champions a culture that fosters the full range of lay and ordained ministries, equipping the people of God for the worship and mission of the Church.

Clergy & Leader Wellbeing

Growing a healthy church requires well-supported clergy and lay leaders. Working with colleagues across the diocese has highlighted for me the risks of clergy isolation, burnout, and unsustainable workloads. If we are to inspire new vocations, and support those already serving, we must care for those who often give sacrificially, including full-time, part-time, house for duty, self-supporting, retired clergy and chaplains. I will support national initiatives that promote clergy welfare, provide proper pastoral care, and ensure fair, transparent processes across the church. The recent improvements to the clergy pension scheme are good, and demonstrate what can be done when Synod works collaboratively on a constructive goal.

Synod & The Church

Handling Significant Issues with Faith and Compassion

As Synod navigates ongoing discussions around sexuality and other significant issues, I am committed to listening and sharing with graciousness, integrity, and seeking biblical guidance. I hold an orthodox position on marriage, and I think I am good at working constructively with people from across differing theological positions. That is a key reason why I am standing. I have learned a lot about hearing other perspectives from my time on our Diocese' Racial Justice Committee and I want to encourage Synod to do that in the most faithful and Christ-like way we can.

Safeguarding

At a local level, I have witnessed the time and care that has increasingly been invested to make our churches safe places for everyone. But there is still more to do, especially at a national and structural level to rebuild and earn the trust that has been broken. I believe that we need genuine repentance and a willingness to listen and learn.

Focus on Mission

I would love Synod's primary aim to be supporting the local church's mission. We have all seen lives transformed through the ministries that people give time, effort and prayer to. So I want to help ensure Synod's focus is equipping churches to continue doing this in the years ahead. The use of national resources should be prioritised for local parish ministry.

Thank you for taking the time to read my address. If you feel I could represent you on General Synod, then I would be grateful for your high-preference vote.

ELECTION TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

Candidate: **The Revd Tim Stilwell,**

Vicar at St Mark's Holbrook, Diocese of Chichester

Proposer: The Revd Martin King, Rural Dean for Horsham

Seconder: The Revd Canon Julie Sear (retired)



Seeking to serve you on General Synod with a passionate heart for parish renewal.

I long to see our national church regain its confidence as we seek to engage even more effectively with those who don't yet know God's love for them personally. The 'quiet revival' may have been overhyped but there are definite signs that many in our nation, especially younger generations, are not merely exploring faith in general but specifically the Christian faith. I want to encourage a degree of cautious optimism as the pervasive secularist ideology wears thin. Navigating this cultural moment requires leaders who can speak with theological grounding, compassionate generosity, and a willingness to sit with complex questions.

About Me

I am married to Jo who is Head of Partnership Support at Kidsmatter (seeking to impact the lives of children facing disadvantages). We have three grown-up children and three grandchildren. I have served on the frontline as Vicar of St Mark's Holbrook, Horsham, for two years, following 22 years of parish ministry in the London Diocese (associate vicar at St Paul's Hammersmith and incumbent at St Dionis, Parsons Green). My experience includes serving as Area Dean and assistant DDO in Kensington.

I value the rich combination of ministry in Word and Spirit, planting fresh expressions and revitalising parish life where needed through the local church. This includes growing a worshipping community in Mowbray - a new housing estate in the north of our parish.

I know first-hand the profound joys and the heavy, quiet burdens of local ministry today. If elected, I will bring this compassionate, frontline perspective directly to the floor of Synod, ensuring that our discussions and debates are grounded in the reality of parish life.

My Core Principles & Commitments

Mission and Evangelism

We should celebrate and renew our confidence in the local parish system. It is not an obsolete relic from the past but the heartbeat of our mission and the place where communities can encounter God's love at any and every stage of their lives. I will vote to channel Church Commissioners' funds towards local parish ministry, frontline resources, and initiatives that

support church revitalisation. In an age where there appears to be a renewed hunger for the good news of Jesus Christ, I am extremely committed to supporting ministry and mission at the local level. Inspired by my wife's work at Kismatter, I am equally committed to seeing churches partner with other locally focussed organisations to bring the gospel into the lives of those who would otherwise be unreached by God's love.

Clergy Wellbeing

Throughout my ministry, I have walked alongside too many fellow clergy who have experienced stress, isolation, and burnout. Sadly, some of them are no longer in ordained ministry. I want to champion clergy welfare and advocate for high-quality training on mental health support across the dioceses. Clergy morale appears to be low in general and while the work at Synod with regard to housing, pay and pensions is ongoing, we must ensure that those who spend their lives caring for others are sustainably supported in long-term ministry themselves.

Marriage and sexual ethics

Although the LLF process has officially been brought to a close, the recent King Private Members Motion brought to General Synod indicates that the debates around a biblical understanding of human sexuality will continue into the next Synod. While my own ministry in this area is shaped by the traditional understanding of marriage revealed in Scripture and expressed in Canon B30, I recognize that many faithful Christians are in a space of deep re-examination. I do not hold easy answers, nor do I wish to shut down the profound theological and pastoral questions so many are wrestling with. I am deeply committed to listening to those navigating these tensions. My priority is to advocate for a church that combines true faithfulness to the Bible's time-honoured teaching with deep pastoral sensitivity, ensuring care and support for all those who love, or are attracted to, members of their own sex.

Safeguarding Reform

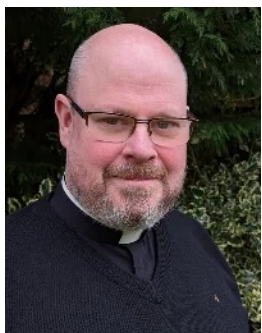
I lament the revelations of terrible abuse in the Church of England over recent decades and support the ongoing work towards new national, independent safeguarding structures. I will press for as much independent professional oversight as is legally possible to ensure that there are transparent systems in place. Trust must be built from the ground up; we must move decisively to ensure our churches are genuinely safe spaces for those who are vulnerable or at risk, and that victims and survivors of abuse are genuinely cared for.

Summary

General Synod requires representatives who can engage across differences with gentleness, humility, and respect without losing their theological grounding. Those who know me will tell you that I am accessible, insightful and a good listener who seeks to bridge divides rather than widen them. As such, I ask for your first preference vote.

Contact: vicar@stmarksholbrook.org.uk Mob: 07772 623543

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss my candidacy or share your own hopes and concerns for the future of our church.



The Rev'd Daniel Valentine

Vicar of Cuckfield & Bolney

Candidate for the House of Clergy - Diocese of Chichester

Proposer: The Rev'd Sam Maginnis - Team Vicar, Horsham; CEECA Chair (2022–2025); former member of General Synod

Seconder: The Rev'd Jules Middleton - Vicar, St Edward's Burgess Hill; former member of General Synod

Why I am standing

- ⇒ I am optimistic about the Church of England. I am simply not optimistic about carrying on as we are.
- ⇒ I am standing for General Synod because I believe in a Church rooted in its parishes, confident in its faith and sacramental inheritance, generous in its breadth, genuinely inclusive - and prepared to reform itself.
- ⇒ I support Save the Parish, Together and Inclusive Church. For me, those commitments belong together.

About me

I am a parish priest, solicitor, CEECA/Unite representative and former member of General Synod, standing in the liberal catholic and broad-church tradition.

My ministry has included suburban, inner-city and now semi-rural parishes, alongside education, airport and Army chaplaincy. My parish is busy and growing.

During my previous time on General Synod, I was involved in reform of clergy discipline and consistently supported better governance, proper scrutiny and more transparent decision-making.

I am a liberal catholic because I believe in the Eucharist and the sacraments, ordered ministry, serious theology, good liturgy and music, and the importance of our parish churches.

I am broad-church because I want catholic, evangelical, liberal, charismatic and traditional Anglicans to flourish. There is no single authentic way of being Anglican and no single model of mission.

We don't always need another strategy. Sometimes we need more confidence in simply being the Church and preaching the Gospel.

Save the Parish - parish, presence and priesthood

The parish gives the Church of England something remarkable: a Christian presence in every community, for everyone.

I reject the assumption that fewer stipendiary priests, ever-larger benefices and Mission Communities are inevitable.

Collaboration can strengthen mission. But putting more churches together, giving them fewer clergy and calling the result "mission" does not make it so. We cannot cut our way to growth.

I want more priests among people, with time to know and serve their communities - not fewer priests managing ever-larger ecclesiastical units.

That means resisting parish amalgamations and Mission Communities where their real purpose is simply to manage clergy cuts, and directing more of the Church's considerable resources towards front-line parish ministry.

Together and Inclusive Church - belonging means equality

I am openly gay, a member of Inclusive Church, a supporter of Together, and an advocate for equality within the Church.

I support the full and equal ministry of women and equal marriage in the Church of England. I don't want another generation of LGBT+ ordinands wondering how honest it is safe to be; gay clergy editing their lives for fear of the consequences; or LGBT+ young people wondering whether the Church's welcome really includes them.

Nor should sex, ethnicity, disability or background determine how fully someone can belong, minister or flourish.

I respect conscientious theological disagreement. That is part of being a broad Church. But respecting disagreement cannot mean postponing equality indefinitely.



We have spent years talking about LGBT+ people. It is time we started treating them equally.

Follow the money - and demand better governance

The Church of England is not poor. So why does poverty always seem to arrive at the parish first? Priests are declared unaffordable while substantial resources continue to be spent on national and diocesan structures, strategies and initiatives.

I want much tougher scrutiny of the National Church Institutions and dioceses.

What are we spending? What has it achieved? Who decided it? And who is accountable when it fails?

The National Church Institutions are not the headquarters of a corporation. Dioceses are not regional offices. Parishes are not delivery units for centrally devised strategies.

The structures of the Church exist to support its mission, not the other way around.

As a lawyer, I am particularly troubled by governance in which everyone seems to have participated but nobody ultimately appears responsible.

General Synod should follow the money, test the evidence, demand accountability - and sometimes be prepared to say **NO!**

Safeguarding which commands confidence

The Church has grievously failed victims and survivors. We must acknowledge that plainly and learn from it.

I want safeguarding which is professional, properly independent, compassionate, timely and accountable.

I also believe in due process and fair treatment. Those principles are not in competition.

Good safeguarding requires both.

So, some reasons not to vote for me...

- ⇒ If you are satisfied with the status quo, I am probably not your candidate.
- ⇒ If you think fewer parish priests, ever-larger benefices and Mission Communities are the inevitable future, don't give me your preference.
- ⇒ If you think the Church can call itself inclusive while women, ethnic minorities and LGBT+ people still encounter barriers to equality, don't give me your preference.
- ⇒ If you think the National Church Institutions and dioceses are delivering good value, our governance is sufficiently accountable, or that the Church has got safeguarding right, don't give me your preference.

BUT....

- ⇒ if you want money spent in parishes rather than vanity projects and mission initiatives often to the detriment of the local parish church;
- ⇒ if you want more priests, stronger parishes and genuine equality;
- ⇒ if you want the money followed and our institutions properly scrutinised; and,
- ⇒ if you want someone who loves the Church of England enough to challenge it...
then I hope you will give me your first preference vote.

Voting

This is an STV election, so you do not have to choose only one candidate. Please support those who share your priorities and rank the candidates in the order you would like to see them elected. If my priorities resonate with you, I would be very grateful for your support.

Any questions? Please get in touch - E: vicar@holytrinitycuckfield.org T: 01444 454007

Daniel

Save the Parish. Together. Inclusive Church.

Parish. Inclusion. Sacrament. Justice. Accountability.

