

I would like to offer myself to serve on General Synod on behalf of the Diocese of York and the wider Church. I bring five years of varied experience in ordained ministry in small and large Churches, in more traditional parish ministry and in my current post pioneering a new worshipping community in a UPA. This gives me a multi layered understanding of the current challenges facing the Church of England. As a millennial who started training for ordination aged 23, I have a passion to invest in the future of the Church, both in its local and parochial iteration and at the level of governance and strategic decisions about its future direction. These things will have an impact on my ministry for potentially the next 40 years, so I am dedicated to investing in that future now.



I believe that the gospel changes lives and that faith in Christ can change not only individuals, but even towns, villages, cities and nations. I also believe that we as the Church are meant to be messengers of that gospel to our nation. Moreover, my hope is that as we follow Jesus's command to make disciples in this generation and follow the Holy Spirit's leading, there will be a thriving Church of England in a hundred years.

The information below should give you some idea of how I would approach serving on General Synod. I would be grateful for your support in the election and if you cannot support me as your 1st choice candidate, I would ask you to consider giving me your 2nd or 3rd vote.

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Present Post: **Multiply (20's – 40's) Minister**, St Mary's with Holy Apostles Scarborough
(shared post with the Rev'd Hannah Madin)

Previous:
2018-19 **Assistant Curate** St Hilda's, Tang Hall, York
2016-18 **Assistant Curate** St Matthew's, Walsall
2014-16 **Ordinand** Cranmer Hall, Durham

Family and other: I am married to Hannah with whom I share my current role. I enjoy model railways, board games, cooking and am currently learning to surf. I have also written several articles over the past year about current issues in Theology and Biblical studies for the website Fulcrum, such as a piece defending God's impassibility and most recently an essay on eschatology.

Nominated by: The Rev'd Richard Walker, Vicar, St Mary's with Holy Apostles, Scarborough

Seconded by: The Rev'd John Lee, Multiply Team Leader, Diocese of York

Priorities facing the next Synod

Mission and Evangelism

The Archbishop of York has given us an ambitious vision for the next term of General Synod in the document set out in June 2021 (GS2223), with an encouraging focus on mission and evangelism. I am particularly excited about the vision for creating ten thousand new Christian communities and doubling the number of children and young people in the Church of England by 2030. My day-to-day experience as a Multiply minister gives me unique insights here. For example, in my experience, people in their 20's to 40's who have grown up outside the Church have so little understanding of the Christian faith that to bring them to Christian maturity is a very long journey. To see these new disciples mature enough to be able to lead and take responsibility is a brilliant ambition, but also a huge challenge. Moreover, though my current role is not specifically aimed at young people, we have quickly discovered that to reach and disciple those in their 20's to 40's, we also need to do the same for their children.

In sum, I hope that my particular contribution to Synod will come from my experience as a Multiply minister currently engaged in outreach to those in their 20's to 40's and their children – especially now these things are a national priority.

Making ministry sustainable for the future

The recent diocesan strategy and consultation has put the financial sustainability of future ministry front and centre in our PCCs and Deaneries. It is no secret that this is a significant issue facing the wider Church. As a younger person in ordained ministry, I have a particularly strong investment in finding solutions to make ministry sustainable into the future. Moreover, my experience as a Multiply minister has brought to the fore certain questions about what lay-led new worshipping communities might look like and how this might change ordained ministry going into the future. In my view, these are vital questions to be considered by Synod as we look ahead. This is particularly the case given the stated priority of creating ten thousand new worshipping communities and a move toward a 'mixed ecology' of traditional models of clergy-led Church and new lay-led worshipping communities. In my understanding this means that new worshipping communities are a compliment to more traditional Parish ministry rather than a threat. This is borne out in practice in my current role, where we are really enjoying working in partnership with the Vicar and Parish Church, ministering 'back-to-back' as we seek to reach those of different demographics.

In this important area of future sustainability, I hope to bring a realistic understanding of how things presently are, and a fresh imagination for how those things might be different through the flourishing of a mixed-ecology ministry led by both lay and ordained.

Living in Love and Faith

Everyone knows that the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) teaching document is likely to result in some outcomes being brought for discussion during the next term of Synod. Whilst I'm committed to Lambeth 1.10 I am also committed to the process of open conversation with those on all sides of this debate that LLF has facilitated. It is my hope that Synod will focus on the substantive issues brought out in the course and book materials, such as how Christians derive their beliefs in different ways which results in the spectrum of opposing conclusions we see. I would also bring an awareness of the impact of our decisions on the Anglican Communion after making links with some inspirational Christians in Singapore whilst on placement during my ordination training.

I hope to bring compassion and clarity to this discussion as well as a keen awareness of the impact of any decisions we make on the wider Anglican Communion.