

## Nominated by:

- **Yvonne Bowling** - co-chair of Racial Justice and Intercultural Ministry Task group, Mowbray Deanery
- **Rosemary Stewart Lay Dean**, Howden Deanery

## My church experience

- Authorised Lay Minister.
- PCC Deputy chair & member.
- Diocesan Synod Representative.
- Deanery Synod Representative.
- Former Member of Deanery Leadership Team - 7 years.
- Foundation School Governor at Liberty Academy (CofE), Hull.
- Former Churchwarden -4 years.
- Currently employed as the Racial Justice Education Adviser for the Diocese of York.

## My work experience

- My current role as the diocesan Racial Justice Education Adviser involves creating and delivering training as well as promoting and advocating for racial justice across the diocese.
- I was a teacher for 10 years in a variety of settings including a SEMH (Social, Emotional & Mental Health) school 5-11years), a medical PRU (Pupil Referral Unit), a CAMHS (Children, Adolescent Mental Health Service) unit and a mainstream secondary school.
- I was self-employed for 12 years as an actor, writer, theatre maker, and drama facilitator. This often involved working as part of a creative team devising and performing work commissioned by schools, the NHS, charities and local authorities. These projects were often aimed at vulnerable and marginalised groups in varied contexts.

# Gerald Fox



## About me

My name is Gerald Fox, and I worship at St. Helen's in Welton, which is part of the Inclusive Church network.

I grew up in the village of Welton, but I now live in Hull with my husband and our dog, Jasper. My family still live and worship in Welton and we remain very close. As a family, we support my remarkable mum as she cares for my father who has Alzheimer's.

I am passionate about justice and have always been involved with campaigning for the rights of oppressed and marginalised communities, particularly asylum seekers and refugees. The Jesus who I read about in the Bible and seek to follow is deeply concerned with justice. Advocating for justice is therefore the principal way I seek to live out my faith.

Being the diocesan Racial Justice Education Adviser is not only the best job I have ever had but it is also the most challenging. I love the opportunity it gives me to facilitate open, honest, and safe discussions about issues of race and racism. I am continually encouraged and challenged by the wisdom and experiences that people are willing to share.

I love books and am always reading. I read theology, philosophy, and Biblical studies. Much of what I read and learn informs my parish ministry and my work as the Racial Justice Education Adviser. I especially value books that will challenge and expand how I think about the Bible, my faith, and how I live that out in the world.

I would have liked to be able to explore a vocation to ordained ministry but as a married gay man, that isn't an option open to me; even if were now possible, at fifty-nine, it would be probably too late. I would like to think that if I were elected, I could play a part in ensuring that is an option for those who come after me.

## My Priorities

### Safeguarding

In its recent audit of safeguarding in the church, INEQE acknowledged that while there has been progress, there was a danger of 'institutional drift'. The newly elected General Synod should respond to this latest audit as a priority. As a member of General Synod, I would work to:

- Continue to build on the good work identified by INEQE by ensuring that the momentum of change is maintained;
- Ensure that where there is resistance to change it is met with robust challenge;
- See that the recommendations of the 2025 safeguarding audit are implemented.

### Diversity and Inclusion

One of the priorities of Living Christ's Story is reaching people we currently don't. I think we need to be asking why we don't we reach those people. It may be because they don't think they will be welcome, and by welcome, I mean an invitation to full participation and representation in our churches, helping them to develop a genuine sense of belonging. Christ's table is open to all. The vision of God's Kingdom is one where every nation, tribe, people and language come together in praise and worship (Rev 7.9). I am committed to work for a Church that is inclusive of everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, whatever their status of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

### The Role of the Laity

I have been fortunate enough to be in a parish where successive incumbents have encouraged the different gifts of the laity. I have also benefitted from excellent theological training from the diocesan Lifelong Learning Team. With increasing workloads for our stipendiary clergy and the rapid pace of change in society, I believe that growing healthy churches will depend on a laity who are well resourced, well trained, and well supported; this would be one of my priorities as a member of General Synod.

## Why Vote for me?

I would bring the experience and knowledge I have gained from listening to all kinds of people in varied contexts across our diocese. I have a passionate commitment to inclusion and am not afraid to speak about difficult things. Thank you for reading my election statement and I hope you will give me your first preference vote. If you want to speak further, please don't hesitate to contact me: [gerald.fox26@outlook.com](mailto:gerald.fox26@outlook.com).