

Clive Watts

Standing for House of Clergy General Synod

Nominated by:

Rev'd Canon Emma Davies - Canon Precentor of Leicester Cathedral.

Rev'd Rob Hinsley - Vicar of St. Luke's, Stocking Farm & Christ the King, Beaumont Leys.



About me:

I am Rector of the Barrow and Wolds Group, a benefice of four semi-rural churches to the East of Loughborough. During 23 years of lay and ordained ministry in the Diocese, I have served in cathedral and parish, urban and rural contexts, as an assistant DDO and in various chaplaincy roles, enabling me to represent the diverse needs of clergy in the Diocese. Prior to ordination I spent 25 years working as a clinical specialist nurse, including senior leadership roles shaping healthcare policy, equipping me with the skills and experience needed to serve on General Synod. I live with my civil partner, David, and Kasper the labrador and enjoy theatre, cinema and time off in Northumberland.

Why vote for me?

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Act Justly

I have a particular concern for social justice and care of the marginalised and believe that love of God and neighbour is at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus' teaching that 'what you do for the least of these, you do for me' guides my response to issues such as the cost-of-living crisis, or our welcome of refugees. I am deeply committed to a Church which challenges injustice, including the sexism, racism and disablism which persists inside and outside of our churches.

Love Mercy

I passionately seek to be part of a Church which welcomes all to the Lord's table. I am enthusiastic about our mission and continue to pray for a Church which is known to be inclusive and rejoices in all God's children, regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality. I believe we are all created uniquely and wonderfully in the image of God, we are all children of God. I am fully supportive of women's ministry and equality for LGBTIQ+ Christians, at all levels and in all roles in the church.

Walk Humbly

I have worshipped in the Church of England for most of my life, with time in-between spent in other denominations. My spirituality has been shaped by charismatic evangelical, liberal catholic and Anglo-Catholic traditions. This diverse experience and respect for different traditions positions me well to represent members of clergy from different backgrounds. As a former nurse, I am well practiced in representing the views and needs of diverse groups, including those which differ from my own. I recognise the importance of garnering opinions from colleagues in a variety of contexts and situations and am committed to doing so if elected to General Synod.

What will I stand for at General Synod?

Safeguarding

Recent events, not least the Makin Report, have highlighted the importance of safeguarding as fundamental to everything we do in the Church. My prayers are with all those who are victims and survivors of abuse. The Church of England still has decisions to make about how we ensure our members will be served and cared for with integrity and genuine compassion. I believe that an independent voice in safeguarding (as proposed by IICSA) is crucial, along with genuine repentance and robust systems, enabling us to live the Gospel we proclaim.

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
(Colossians 3:17)*

Living in Love and Faith

I pray for a Church who will speak, inclusively and without hypocrisy, about the spiritual and societal values of monogamy and love, regardless of gender. I hope and pray that the Living in Love and Faith process will enable us to listen deeply and humbly - to value one another, seek unity across difference, and enable integrity in diversity. As Synod continues to listen for the promptings of the Holy Spirit and discern God's will in this hugely important yet divisive topic, I respect the need for Synod to tread carefully in this next stage, but we must act.

Clergy Wellbeing

I believe clergy wellbeing is of utmost importance to the wellbeing of the church. Alongside traditional models of stipendiary and self-supporting ministry we need to be more creative about the options for ministry and deployment to enable people to find a pattern of ministry that is sustainable and life-giving.

The current Clergy Discipline Measure has been described as isolating, unbalanced and uncaring. I would like to see a CDM process that is fit for purpose – fair, transparent and timely, that protects vulnerable people while weeding out vexatious or malicious complaints, and that gives clergy access to good support during the process.

Environment and Climate

The climate crisis is probably the most pressing ethical issue of our age. The Church has a crucial missional opportunity to be prophetic in how we care for God's creation through our discipleship, our finances and our buildings and land. I welcome our diocesan commitment to become an Eco-Diocese and am keen to ensure that nationally the Church is leading the way on environmental issues. As the Five Marks of Mission express it, I seek 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

Thank you



Thank you so much for taking the time to read my Electoral Address. For a committed, inclusive, and caring General Synod member, please consider voting for me as your first or high preference. Voting closes on Wednesday 29th January.

If you have any questions or would like to speak with me further, I would be very happy to hear from you.

The Rev'd Clive Watts

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