

JOSHUA ASKWITH

STANDING FOR HOUSE OF CLERGY

GENERAL SYNOD



ABOUT ME:

As a young person, with a younger face, in the Church of England I have often found it hard to have my voice heard. It was because of this that I have strived to encourage others to find their own voice and speak out. In the process I have discovered that there are many people who are under represented in the Church and I want to be a voice that could represent YOU!

To understand a bit more about me though, I was ordained in 2017 in our diocese and have served in both of our Arch-deaconries as a curate and now Vicar of Norbury, St. Thomas, Hazel Grove, in the Macclesfield Deanery. I am a passionate advocate for our diocese and having served on the Vacancy and See committee I strongly believe we can make our diocese a better place for all people.

Before ordination I served, for a while, as an outreach worker in the Manchester area for a Christian charity and saw the difficulties that many of our younger people live in some of the more urban areas. After serving in Manchester I travelled to university and read History before training for ordination.

In my spare time I love to walk my black Labrador and spend time with my family.

WHAT CAN I OFFER:

Representation - I believe in speaking out with bravery and authenticity from a place of love. As someone who has experienced the breadth of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, in North America, I am passionate about listening in order to understand. I have a desire to use my voice to represent the opinions of those who are silenced.

Reconciliation - As a member of an ecumenical Community of Practice focused on developing the habits of reconciliation and peace I am eager to encourage reconciliation where possible. I want to see a church which can hold difference well but also remain united around the foundations found in the Gospels.

Hope - As a younger member of the Church of England I want to offer a voice that is hopeful. In a world that has often lost hope I aspire to speak about the gifts that we have to offer. I am passionate about creating a Church that shows the love and joy of the gospel and speaks its hope with relevancy.

WHERE DO I STAND:

Pastoral Reorganisation - The last Synod saw a 'green paper' on reform of the Pastoral Measure, the legislation that governs reorganisation of parishes and (as a consequence) security of clergy in post. I believe that the primary task for all believers is to tell others about the love of God. After a year that has pushed us to channel and encourage creativity, utilising the gifts of all God's people, I want to help empower the local church to continue to speak into its local context and reach out with God's love to all around them.

Clergy Wellbeing - There is now a path to clear scheduled change around the Clergy Disciplinary Measure process but more can be done to bring about positive changes to clergy wellbeing. I want to uphold a vision which values clergy for who they are and provides the necessary care and protection for them to practice their ministry in a safe and supportive environment.

Inclusive Church - I believe in a church for everyone, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. We are all made in God's image, we are all invited to the Lord's table. I am fully supportive of women's ministry in all forms and equality for LGBT+ Christians, at all levels and in all roles in the church.

Disability - Although this is not a matter of debate the Church continues to be a place which is not representative of all people. As someone with a hidden disability I recognise that people with disabilities are under-represented at all levels and the provision for support continues to be a matter of disappointment. I want to encourage a church where all people can flourish to their full potential.

Racial Justice and Discrimination - The report "from Lament to Action", April 2021, recognises the failures of church and the need for drastic change. Our diocese has gone some way to raise awareness and encourage an end to racial injustice but more needs to be done at both a local and structural level and I want to be a voice to support these changes.

Climate Change- Whatever may happen in the Church in the next 5 years there is little doubt that climate change will continue to be a pressing issue for our times, and that the Church will be judge by society for it's response to such issues. The Church Commissioners disappointingly continue to work towards a Net Zero target of 2050. This is not good enough. The Church needs to make bold steps to encourage all believers to reassess the importance of caring for our creation and moving towards a more low-carbon lifestyle.

NOMINATED BY:

Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall,
served on General Synod

Vicar of St. George and St. Gabriel, Stockport

Canon Jeremy Dussek,

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THANK YOU:

Thank you for reading my electoral statement, I hope you will consider me as your first preference vote.