



## Revd Ian Enticott

Rector of the Parish of Congleton

I am seeking your First Preference Vote for General Synod

Please feel free to contact me in any of these ways:

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Proposed by: Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

*Priest in Charge, Christ Church Birkenhead*

Seconded by: Revd Steve Clapham

*Rural Dean, Congleton*

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Let me introduce myself as someone who:

- is fully committed to parish ministry
- has a heart for helping people encounter Jesus and be transformed by him
- has wide experience of training Christians in mission and discipleship
- is passionate about the church's engagement with wider society
- is committed to understanding and interpreting the Bible with relevance to the issues of today

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### A healthy heart

The body can only function properly when the heart is healthy. I needed to be reminded of that when middle-age-spread led to high blood-pressure, high cholesterol levels and a general lack of fitness. With my GP's encouragement, I re-engaged with my youthful passion for running, and slowly but surely the health of my heart improved. I now run a total of around 20 miles a week, and in 2019 completed the London Marathon. I see the General Synod like the heart of the Church of England – while it remains healthy the whole body functions properly. I want to see that health maintained as it debates and makes the decisions that affect all of us. I believe I can contribute to that health by bringing to Synod my desire to keep its focus on supporting and enabling the people and clergy of our parishes in their work of making Jesus known in our world today.

If elected I will endeavour to read, pray and prepare for debates, to listen carefully, and not to pre-judge the issue. I will seek to bring biblical understanding and deep theological reflection to every matter I engage with. I want to see a healthy heartbeat at the centre, that can enable the whole body to flourish.

### Faith, hope and love

I think the three aspects of faith, hope and love in First Corinthians Chapter 13 present a model for what I think the Church of England needs to engage with today.

**Faith:** There is a great need today to present the unchangeable message of the Gospel in ways that are accessible to the cultures we minister in. The national church needs to work at resourcing clergy and people to fulfil their mission in the local context. We have to recover confidence in declaring the

uniqueness of Christ and be bold in our proclamation of Christian truth even in the face of apathy and hostility to our views. The Vision and Strategy initiative should help us towards this goal, and I believe I have plenty of relevant experience that can feed in to this. I particularly want to see the Archbishops' Evangelism Task Group take seriously the priority of parish ministry in our evangelism.

**Hope:** The Church of England is facing significant financial stress as we seek to resource the church for the future. We are facing huge challenges across our planet as we seek to adjust to living with the impact of COVID-19 and the rapidly-changing climate. We need to be able to give people hope for a better future, and the church is uniquely placed to offer that hope. We can do that most effectively when our policies match up to our rhetoric and we show we really care deeply. So, I will support the Everyday Faith initiative, to see it better implemented; but also seek development of theological colleges to be driven not just by finance, but the need for the highest calibre of ministry in our post-Christian culture.

**Love:** People must see the love and compassion of Christ within us as we seek to challenge them to encounter the living Christ and to be transformed by Word and Spirit. While God loves each one of us just as we are, there is also a call to everyone who follows Christ to grow in holiness. The General Synod will need to wrestle with what that means in the context of issues of human sexuality and gender. I believe we can find a way forward through the Living in Love and Faith initiative if we are willing to listen to and respect each other's views, while seeking to draw consensus around a faithful understanding of the Bible. We need to make sure that people can say of us, "See, how these Christians love one another".

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**About me:** Married to Fiona, we have four grown-up children and three (soon to be four) grandchildren. I enjoy running, I like messing with computers and fixing things generally, and I really like finding new apps.

**Experience:** Director of Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance (2019-2020)  
Vice Chair of House of Clergy, Blackburn Diocesan Synod (2018-2020)  
Bishop's Council, Diocese of Blackburn (2018-2020)  
Communications Team at 1998 Lambeth Conference  
Mission Partner in Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania (1987-1997)

**Current Post:** Rector of the Parish of Congleton (since 2020)

**Previously:** Area Dean of Accrington (2016-2020)  
Vicar of the United Benefice of Accrington St James and St Paul (2014-2020)  
Director of African Pastors' Fellowship (with PTO in Coventry) (2010-2014)  
Priest-in-charge of Kelsall St Philip (0.6 post) (2002-2010)  
Diocesan Assistant Missioner, Diocese of Chester (0.4 post) (2002-2010)  
Assistant Curate of Higher Bebington Christ Church (1999-2002)

**Education:** MA Theology, University of Durham 2000  
Diploma in Ministerial Studies, Cranmer Hall, University of Durham 1999  
Post-Graduate Diploma in Mission, All Nations Christian College 1987  
BA Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield 1982

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I hope that you will want to give me your first preference vote.

Please do contact me for any clarification of what I have written here.