



**Revd Mae Christie**  
**Vicar, All Saints, Tooting**

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. – John 13.34-35*

Proposer: Revd Canon Roxanne Hunte,  
Holy Innocents & St Mark, South Norwood  
Seconder: Revd Sam Dennis, St Luke's, Woodside

**About me:** I am the vicar of All Saints, Tooting, where I've served since November 2017. I've been ordained for 7 years, and served my curacy in Southwark Diocese at St Christopher's & Pembroke House, Walworth. I attended theological college at Westcott House in Cambridge, where I developed a love for the parish, Evensong, smells and bells, a lukewarm pint and marmite. During that time, I also met my husband, Andrew, a warm-hearted Scottish Presbyterian Classics teacher. The last 18 months have been pretty eventful for us as, in addition to living through the pandemic, we also had a baby. His name is Walker and as I write, he's 9 months old – his interests include porridge, shouting in church and gnawing on his crib. I absolutely love being a vicar- I've felt called to ordained ministry since I was a young teenager and even though it is incredibly challenging, most days I love the privilege of serving God in this way.

I wasn't always in the UK as I am originally from Louisiana, in the deep south of the United States, where I grew up and went to university. My first degree was in Political Science and I moved to Washington DC after graduation to pursue a job in the law, with an intention to attend law school. I loved DC and my work, but eventually realised God was calling me elsewhere. My immediate and extended family are committed Christians of a variety of denominations and I had the joy of experiencing that breadth of churchmanship and theological opinion throughout my life as I attended services with them, including Methodist, Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist, and non-denominational churches. My parents and stepmother were/are committed Episcopalians and, as such, I'm proud to call myself (I assume!) a cradle to grave Anglican. I was accepted and sent forward for ordination training by the diocese in DC when an opportunity arose for me to study at Westcott House. I arranged my own study abroad programme and made my way to the UK in September 2011, with the intention of studying over here for a year, and have been here ever since. I did not leave the Episcopal Church, but instead felt very seriously called to the Church of England, and in particular to the parish system. Notwithstanding its current challenges, I believe this remains one of the greatest opportunities the Church possesses for mission and evangelism.

I consider myself fairly catholic, theologically, but have a pretty strong rebellious protestant streak which I can't shake, so I suppose at the end of the day that I'm thoroughly Anglican. I love the diversity of tradition in the Church of England, and indeed within my own parish. I am socially progressive and am committed to diversity and inclusion at every level of the Church of England and believe whole-heartedly that is where God is calling us.

**Other Commitments/Experience:** During my curacy, I was elected and served on Diocesan Synod. I am an Area Director of Ordinands, primary school governor, and currently serve as the Treasurer for Sion College, a charity for clergy.

## What I can contribute:

- **A passion for inclusion, justice and diversity at every level**, knowing the more we reach out in welcome and solidarity, the closer we get to the heart of Christ. The last few years has laid bare the many ways we have fallen short of our call to love one another, and I have a great enthusiasm that God is calling us to imagine and bring into reality a more inclusive, just and diverse church.
- **Parish experience.** There are a whole host of ways in which we reach out and share the gospel and wonderful new possibilities for ministry, mission and evangelism in the Church of England, but the parish continues to present unique opportunities to love God and our neighbour. I am committed to mission-focussed and outward-looking parishes being resourced to share the gospel where they are, in whatever way God has called them.
- **Interest in our management, leadership and decision-making structures.** Like so many of you, whether in parishes, schools, hospitals, prisons or elsewhere, I found myself challenged while ministering during the last 18 months, particularly in Lockdown. I was inspired and encouraged by the variety of ways you supported the people you serve in prayer, worship, and pastoral care. At times, though, it seemed that some of the senior and national leadership structures of the Church of England were perhaps not as aware of our lived, on the ground, experience. If elected, I am committed to listening to each of you, your concerns and experience and voicing them within our formal structures so we can all discern where God is calling the Church of England. I would be particularly interested to hear of any ideas that might help us all flourish in ministry and mission.
- **Concern for you.** One of my great joys in ministry is having colleagues, both within and outside of the parish. In my own parish, I'm blessed to have 3 fantastic clergy colleagues, who encourage, stretch, challenge and support me. If elected to serve on General Synod, I would relish the opportunity to hear about what matters to you and how we can all be part of discerning God's call for the Church of England.

## Please consider voting for me.

I have prayed about this for some time, having been encouraged by others to offer myself. The next 5 years may well be some of the most important in the life of our Church and we need passionate, capable, compassionate voices on Synod to represent us and work alongside others so we can do God's work in our own time. I would like to be part of that work, but even if not elected, I am committed to supporting those who are. As you vote, I would encourage you to consider other inclusive candidates as well as diversity. If you have any questions or concerns, please do be in touch!

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