

Dear Clergy Colleague

My name is Marcus and I am the vicar of the Ascension Church in Balham, Area Dean for Tooting, Area Director of IME and a member of Diocesan Synod.

What a year it has been! I wonder how healthy you are feeling in body, mind and spirit?

You may be, like me, feeling the pressure of juggling multiple priorities having just recovered from what felt like an 18 month marathon!

While I understand the national church's imperative to drive growth, I believe passionately that this is best achieved by first focusing on the underlying health of all that we do.



Your vote...for healthy church in all its forms

I have felt called to serve as your Southwark clergy representative on General Synod with an agenda for health in all its forms (specifics below) and would like to ask you for your first choice vote in the pursuit of 'healthy church'. If I am not your first choice candidate, I would ask you to consider giving me your second or third vote.

How can I contribute?

Healthy Growth

As a vicar with a background in strategy consulting, advising some of the world's largest companies (e.g. GSK, Marks & Spencer), I have the competence and confidence to not simply engage with national church strategic growth agendas, but to ensure that any national initiatives have integrity and realism through being grounded in the wisdom and experience of local communities at the coalface.

Healthy Challenge

General Synod votes and makes decisions. Healthy decisions are forged through proper, healthy debate and challenge. My Area Dean colleagues have appreciated and commented on the way I have been willing to speak truth to power in courageous and compassionate ways, looking to bring light not heat to a topic! I intend to take this approach into General Synod.

“Marcus is a man of passionate integrity, with a heart for people, who is committed to developing the local church as a community focus for mission and outreach”

Canon Dr Sue Clarke, Assistant Area Dean Tooting

Healthy Clergy

Irenaeus famously said “the glory of God is a person fully alive”. In my role as Area Director of IME, I help ensure that clergy get off to a good and healthy start in their vocation and title post. I would look to ensure that General Synod promotes the health of its clergy in body, mind and spirit, being an advocate for the needs of us living out this calling on the ground.

Healthy Planet

The climate emergency will impact millions of lives, starting with the most vulnerable. The church needs to lead the way as part of loving our neighbour and safeguarding the integrity of God’s creation. At Ascension, we have opened our own eco-refill station and installed church solar panels as a small step towards this. However, I will be urging Synod to be the prophetic voice urging us to go further and faster in addressing this most urgent challenge.

These are some of the ways I would look to serve you, the church and God on General Synod.

If you would like to chat further about anything at all, do not hesitate to call me or message me on 07835 300001 or at marcus.gibbs@ascensionbalham.org. Below I include a little more about me, my interests and background and here is a short video to give you even more of a flavour of who I am www.general-synod.org.

I would be very grateful for your first choice vote in the upcoming election.

With thanks and blessings



A bit more about me

- Married to Cara, who is a curate in the Diocese of London, with 2 children Caspian (3 ½ years old, into trains and dinosaurs) and Dorothee (9 months old, into sucking on things)
- Graduated with 1st Class degrees from Manchester University (International Management) and Bristol University (Theology) - so hopefully able to fulfil the Barthian mandate of ‘doing theology with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other’
- Pre-ordination, worked in a number of management roles, started my own business and advised FTSE 100 companies as a management consultant
- Love coffee, curry and rugby!

Proposer: Father Alex Barrow, Area Dean for Richmond and Barnes

Seconder: Revd Ruth Turner, Assistant Area Dean for Battersea