

Rev'd Hannah Gordon



Proposed by: Rev'd Bridget Shepherd, The Good Shepherd w. St Peter, Lee.
Fr. Sam Dennis, St. Luke, Woodside.

I am assistant curate at The Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches. I was ordained Deacon in June 2019 & Priest in October 2020 having trained for 3 years full-time at St. Mellitus on the mixed mode Theology, Mission & Ministry BA. During my training I was based at St. Johns in Shirley with Rev'd Lu Gale as my supervisor. Balancing family life, parish ministry and studying for a degree was a challenge which has set me up well for ordained ministry.

Emmanuel, Croydon was my sending church, where I had been for 14 years since moving to Croydon from University. At Emmanuel I served on youth work teams, set up a school assembly team, led services & preached, as well as taking part in several wonderful holiday clubs. It was a place of great encouragement and learning.

The variety of church traditions I have been in have led to me being at home in every expression of the Church of England who will allow me to minister there. I don't wear a label well, except in my clothes, and pray that we can learn to leave behind our tribes and present a united church to those who look in on us, searching for Jesus.

Before training I was a primary school teacher & RE coordinator in a Diocesan CofE Junior school for 7 years, and prior to that I worked in the voluntary sector with older and disabled adults in Brixton.

I came to faith at Cardiff University, when my boyfriend started going to church with my housemates and I wondered what I was missing out on! I didn't grow up in a family of faith but I attended school in the shadow of Worcester Cathedral, so worship in the Cathedral and the Anglican Church were part of the narrative of my school days.

I used to play rugby but have now taken up running (slowly) as a way to offset middle age. I enjoy reading trashy novels as well as weightier tomes, listening to an eclectic mix of music, drinking copious amounts of decent coffee and watching *Call The Midwife!*

I am married and we have two strong-willed, feisty girls, aged 7 & 10

Why am I standing?

- I am standing for General Synod as a progressive, inclusive evangelical who has struggled to see others representing me and my part of the church. I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.
- I am frustrated by churches who are not clear about their theological views, and how that affects the opportunities and inclusion of their members, on matters of sexuality and gender. I acknowledge that as a gloriously broad church we differ in our views and understanding of these issues and I believe that we need to be more honest about these with the world outside of church

Living in Love and Faith

- I am grateful that the LLF materials were published in November 2020 despite the pandemic and, although deeply frustrating, I feel that the revised April 2022 deadline is helpful and realistic. I look forward to Synod finding a clear sense of direction and finding creative solutions to move forward if deadlock occurs.

Racial Justice

- It was disappointing that there was no funding agreed for diocesan Racial Justice officers at the last Synod. Racial Justice will be a key issue for this Synod and unless the church engages with this complex issue with humility and penitence we will lose our opportunity for reconciliation.

Climate Crisis

- We are in the centre of a climate emergency. The church should be taking a lead in changing the way we live and consume the earth's resources and we will be judged by society for our engagement or ignorance of this. The Bishop of Croydon said in a recent blog 'Caring for our common home has to move to the front of our list of concerns, because if it doesn't we may not have one.' I agree wholeheartedly. We need to act quickly and definitively as a church to make our response a core part of mission and discipleship.

Children and Young People

- I am passionate about engaging with children and young people who live in a world of constant noise, influence and pressure. I would like to see Synod discuss greater opportunities for paid youth and children's workers with competitive salaries and career sustainability to benefit our children and young people, for example working alongside the newly launched Concrete Academy.

Thanks for reading.

If you have any questions please email me: mrshannahgordon@gmail.com