

Election to the General Synod for Southwark Diocese – September 2021

House of Laity

**ADRIAN GREENWOOD**, Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Deanery

Nominated by Solabomi Ogun (Deptford) and Sue Mallinson (Tandridge)

Dear Deanery Synod Member,

***Please give me a high preference vote (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place):***

1. I am seeking re-election to be one of 7 lay people to represent the Diocese of Southwark on General Synod for several reasons.  
First, I have served on General Synod since 2000 so I know its procedures well and contribute regularly through Questions and speeches. In the final Group of Sessions in July 2021, I helped to bring about an important change for Lay Reps on Deanery Synods. In the last 5 years I have also served on Archbishops Council, Ministry Council, the Lay Ministries Advisory Group, the Business Committee and the Legislative Reform Committee. I have reported back regularly to Deptford & Dulwich Deaneries.
2. Secondly, the Bishops have articulated an exciting new Vision for the Church of England to be ***'Christ centred and Jesus shaped'*** and to be ***'simpler, humbler and bolder'***. They want the Church to be a community of *'missionary disciples'*, to be *younger and more diverse* and to operate on a *'mixed ecology'* basis, comprising parishes, chaplaincies, digital and fresh expressions– all very relevant as we adapt to new ways of being and doing Church in the light of the COVID pandemic. These strategies build on the work of Renewal & Reform which has, among many other things, produced 3 seminal Reports over the last 5 years about equipping the whole people of God for His mission: *'Setting God's People Free'*, *'A Vision for Lay Ministries'* and *'Kingdom Calling'*. I welcome this Vision & Strategy and my aim is to help drive it forward.
3. Thirdly, the Bishops are in the middle of the *Living in Love & Faith* discernment process about issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. They have also endorsed the 6 Pastoral Principles. I am keen to engage with the excellent resources and with one another in the Church as the Bishops lead us forward, so that the whole Church can learn to live together in love and faith, Christ centred and Jesus shaped in the mission of building God's Kingdom on earth as in heaven.
4. Finally, there is some very important legislative business in the next 5 years including passing reforms to the Clergy Discipline Measure and the Mission & Pastoral Measure, sharing out historic diocesan assets, reviewing Clergy Terms of Service and simplifying the Canons for Lay Ministries, all in the light of fresh



understandings of the role of public ministry and mutual flourishing. In Safeguarding we need to establish a fully funded Redress Scheme and the Independent Oversight Group and prepare for 'mandatory reporting'. We need to press on with the cultural changes required to empower and equip all lay Anglicans for everyday faith, to reform ministerial education, to implement Racial Justice and to make progress towards net zero carbon. As well as enabling the Church to be 'salt & light' – to contribute to the common good in an aching world, God's world, damaged by so much inequality and division. We need a fresh resolve to share the Good News of the Kingdom, of faith, hope, love and unity in Jesus Christ, our Saviour, Servant King.

5. A bit about me: I am married to Marian and we have 3 children and 5 grandchildren, who all live nearby. I attend St James Church Bermondsey, where I am a Lay Reader and a former Churchwarden. I am Secretary to the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Deanery, the Chair of the House of Laity of Southwark Diocesan Synod and a member of the Diocesan Council of Trustees. I chaired the Deaneries Advisory Group, which recommended Deanery Leadership Teams and work closely with Deanery Lay Chairs to promote these. I am Vice Chair of the new Lay Council and have helped plan several Lay Conferences. I have the time and experience to serve in this important and responsible role on Synod.
6. I qualified as a lawyer (so I understand a bit about legislation) but after I came to Bermondsey I decided to switch the focus of my career and spent the whole of my working life in a housing association in Tower Hamlets. So I am steeped in the issues of the inner city and the Kingdom values of social justice and the common good. My other roles include chairing the Trustees of the Salmon Youth Centre, chairing a small charity involved with housing key Christian workers, deputy Chair of another charity which specialises in organising volunteers to befriend isolated older people in the community, Together Southwark and a large Community Foundation - so a wide range of interests and experiences which I can draw on with my work on Synod.
7. One of my hobbies is jogging – I completed the London Marathon 10 times and enjoy Park Running (79 so far). Serving on General Synod is much more like running a marathon than a sprint. The Bible verse which inspires me when running is Hebrews ch. 12 verses 1 and 2 – *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.'* (TNIV)
8. Thank you for reading this. I promise to be a faithful representative on Synod, listening to your views, speaking on your behalf and reporting back regularly.  
**PLEASE GIVE YOUR 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> PREFERENCE VOTE TO ADRIAN GREENWOOD** – so that I may continue to use my experience as part of the Southwark team on General Synod. You may contact me at 15 Aspinden Road LONDON SE16 2DR or 020-7237-6920 or amgreenwood@tiscali.co.uk