



## General Synod Election Address

**The Revd. Captain Nicholas Lebey**

I am grateful to the Revd Helen Hancock for proposing me and to the Revd Robert Stanier for seconding my nomination. I am Pioneer Curate in the Tolworth, Hook, and Surbiton Team Ministry. I'm married to Evelyn, and we have three children. It was an honour to have served on the General Synod for four years (2015-2019) in the House of Laity. I left for Ordination training, and having been ordained, I'm now standing to serve in the House of Clergy.

### **Previous experience on General Synod and accomplishments**

I was very active on General Synod and participated in numerous debates and spoke on various subjects. Here are few of them:

In my maiden speech, I contributed to the debate on the Archbishop Task Force report on Evangelism. I spoke passionately about the need to resource youth and children's work in our churches and called for robust support for youth ministry and fresh expressions of Church.

I gave a speech and supported a motion calling on the UK government to reassess and reduce the exorbitant cost of applying for UK Citizenship. A significant issue which affects many legal migrants in our parishes and the country.

I spoke in favour of a private member motion encouraging the Church of England to empower young people to become as evangelists because these are the people who are best placed to reach their peers. Also, there is a need to give young people leadership roles in the church instead of seeing them as spectators in the pews.

On behalf of the Southwark Diocese, I presented a motion calling on each diocese of the Church of England to assist refugee and asylum-seeking professionals in finding jobs commensurate with their skills to contribute to our communities and the country. The motion passed with an amendment from the Bishop of Durham.

I engaged in General Synod discussion on Shared Conversation and Human Sexuality.

Through General Synod I was invited to serve on the CPAS Council of Reference. A role I still occupy.

### **Ministry and Leadership Experience**

I have served as a missionary in South Africa, Ireland, and the USA.

I have served for twelve years as a Youth Worker and served in three different dioceses in the Church of England and Church of Ireland.

I'm a Commissioned Church Army Evangelist and served young people both in and outside of the Church.

I pioneered a fresh expression of Church for young people in the Thamesmead Team Ministry.

I served as Southwark Diocese Coordinator of the ecumenical charity – Friends of the Holy Land (FHL).

I served on both Diocesan and Deanery Synod.

### **Why I'm Standing Again**

Without a doubt, in the next quinquennial General Synod would be dominated by LLF and the debate on marriage and human sexuality. If elected, I shall engage to see the church uphold the church's historical teachings and Scripture while also advocating for a church where everyone is welcomed and loved. The Church must give greater attention to other equally vital areas of our calling to serve communities across this nation and make disciples. I'm standing because I believe we must prioritise mission, evangelism, and the encouraging and enabling of lay ministry. I love the Church of England and think one of its greatest assets is young people. Sadly, they are under-represented and often missing from the Church. We must have a bold and ambitious vision for youth ministry and include young people in leadership. Similarly, we must be a church where diversity is encouraged and seen as a gift and consequently allow UKME to fully participate in the life and leadership of the Church of England.

With my previous experience as a Youth Worker, Church Army Evangelist, and now that I am currently ordained, I will bring a different perspective, ideas, and insight to debate and dialogue on General Synod. I am willing to be a solid and confident voice for those who are seldom heard in the discussions in General Synod, ensuring that the clergy and people of this great diocese of Southwark are neither forgotten nor under-estimated. I would be honoured to represent Southwark Diocese and seek your vote in this election.