

General Synod Statement

Nominated: Canon Gary Jenkins (Southwark Diocese Estates Lead)

Seconded: Rev. Katie Thomas (Kingston Area Advisor for Women's Ministry)

I have been married to Louiz for 28yrs and we have two adult children - Joel & Emma. I was ordained in 2010. Before ordination I worked in the care sector with young people with mental health needs, autism and physical disabilities, plus I have



experience of dementia care. I was curate at St John's (Plumstead) before joining the Thamesmead Team as Team Vicar in 2014, a very culturally diverse area of high social needs and deprivation.

My central passions and areas of concern are:

- **Ministry With The Poor:**
- **Ministry and Disability:**
- **Developing Individual's Ministries:**

My main motivation to stand is to work and fight for urban ministry and ministry in places of high deprivation. In a post COVID world of tight resources and financial stress, history tells us that denominations usually cut churches in the poorer areas to balance the books, and these areas get left behind. Bishop North is right when he says that Gospel revival and revitalisation comes from the margins. If we leave the estates we will never go back, leaving whole communities un-evangelised. We must not leave. My previous management plus current ministerial experience will enable me to speak to issues of financial difficulty and develop policy to protect estate ministry and ministry to the poor.

I am also standing in the light of my concern for people with disabilities and those who live in care. For 15yrs I worked in care

homes, starting as a cleaner and ending as an area manager, often supporting those referred on from poorly run services. Those in care are, again, one of the “left-behind” groups we need to keep central to the life of the church. Allied to this, I am working with Canon Tim Goode on *Wonderfully Made Church* which looks at disability and ministry within the church – to take the priesthood of all believers seriously in the context of people with disability.

My third passion around ministerial formation flows out of these two. To pay for the poorer churches we need growth over the whole church. Archbishop Steven’s Vision and Strategy for the next decade looks for this but will only work if it first takes account of the margins, but then also trains clergy and laity to minister in new ways. Training and preparing both clergy and laity for Gospel mission and evangelism in a changing world is crucial.

In addition to these issues others will be live during the next five years including finance generally, Living in Love and Faith, issues around race, issues concerning climate justice and questions around the place of the parish. All of these need clear policy and pastoral practice developed, and I will engage across Synod to find Biblical Christ centred solutions to these current pressing issues.

Within Southwark I am on Diocesan Synod, the Vacancy In See Committee and Diocesan Council of Trustees, and Chair of Southwark Diocesan Evangelical Union. I have been also been an Area IME Director since 2015, a role supporting curates through their curacies. Beyond the diocese I am very much involved with NECN (National Estates Church Network - an ecumenical group supporting estates ministry), on the National Selection Oversight Group (who look to broaden the selection process to marginalised groups), new member of the CEEC Council, and Chair of Trustees for the discipleship organisation Journey UK.

Please would you consider giving me a high preference vote so I can positively be involved in this important Synod quinquennium.