

Revd Greg Prior

Candidate for General Synod

NOMINATED BY **Revd Richard Taylor**

Richard is the vicar of Saint Barnabas Church, Clapham Common and is the Area Dean of Battersea Deanery.

SECONDED BY **Revd Ian Tattum**

David is the vicar of Saint Barnabas Church Southfields and is the Area Dean of Wandsworth Deanery



Dear clergy colleagues,

As a nation and church, we are living through unprecedented times. Hardly a person has been left unaffected by the impact of the global COVID pandemic. Furthermore, the pandemic has only served to exacerbate the already significant challenges facing the Church of England: ageing and declining congregations and clergy, growing budget deficits, safeguarding issues, a decline in clergy wellbeing and significant differences of view on important subjects within the life of the church.

Mindful of these challenges, and out of a desire to serve you and the wider church, I would like to offer myself for election to General Synod.

I am married to Judith and have three adult children; Rebecca, Sarah and Nathan. I was born and brought up in South Africa where I studied architecture at Port Elizabeth University before entering theological college.

Ordained in 1995 (26 years), I spent the first 6 years ministering in diverse contexts from the deprived shanty town of Khayelitsha outside Cape Town to a large 2500-member congregation in the suburbs. My family and I moved to London in 2001 where I took up the post of Minister for Mission and Evangelism in a large Anglican church in the London diocese. Then in 2004 took up my current post as Vicar of All Saints and Holy Trinity Wandsworth, within a diverse and multi-cultural community.

Acknowledging Jesus as my Lord demands that my faith is reflected in all aspects of my life – whether it be at home, work, play or church. I believe that the Good News of the gospel is a message for everyone irrespective of ethnic, social or religious background.

John 3:16... For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

If elected to the General Synod:

- I will listen to and treat everyone with respect, courtesy and grace regardless of whether we have similar or different views.
- I will work together with colleagues from across the traditions to find 'consensual' solutions to the challenges we face as a church.
- I will work hard to uphold the place, importance and role of the local church in mission.

The information overleaf will hopefully give you some idea of how I view some of the specific issues of the next 5 years. I would be grateful for your support in the election (and if I am not your first-choice candidate, I would ask you to consider giving me your 2nd or 3rd vote).

Thank you

RECENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Acting Archdeacon of Wandsworth (May – Sept 2021)
- Area Dean of Wandsworth (2013-2018)
- Hospital for Neuro-disability – Chaplain

- Southwark Diocesan Synod
- Diocesan Council of Trustees – member
- Diocesan Patronage Board – Chairperson
- Wandsworth Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee

- Bishop's Governor of Saint Cecilia's Church of England School – (Chairperson 2012-2020)
- Putney United Gospel Society - Trustee
- Wandsworth Combined Charities – Trustee (Chairperson)
- Wandsworth Town Centre Partnership – Board Member

ISSUES:

- **Mission and evangelism**

I am convinced that, more than ever, we need to be a church with mission and evangelism at the forefront of what we are about.

Matthew 9:37-38.. 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

It is vital that our national vision for mission and evangelism serves to enable and empower the local church and not become another burden to clergy and parishes.

- **Clergy Discipline Measure**

We are all aware that the current system is flawed. As General Synod considers proposals to either replace or revise it, I will work hard to ensure that the final measure is a suitable 'tool' that is fair and transparent and that protections are set in place to ensure it is free from misuse and abuse.

- **Clergy Wellbeing:**

In my recent role as Acting Archdeacon, I have seen first-hand the massive toll that the COVID pandemic has had on clergy. I believe we are yet to uncover the full impact this has had on clergy wellbeing. While it is encouraging that we have begun to look at this issue as a national church, I believe there is still much to be done and I will work hard to ensure this is a matter not forgotten.

- **Human sexuality**

Whether we like it or not, the next General Synod will have to address the issues of gender, identity and human sexuality. I am privileged to have friends and colleagues with radically differing views on these important issues and I am committed to working together with humility and grace to navigate our 'differences' so that, if at all possible, we arrive at a future that honours Christ and strengthens our witness as a church to a world in desperate need of Jesus.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me:

Revd Greg Prior

Address: 11 Rusholme Road, Putney, LONDON, SW15 3JX

Mobile: 07534369017

Email: vicar@wandsworth.church