

Alianore ('Eleanor') Smith

*General Synod Election Address 2021
Election of Lay Representatives for the Diocese of Southwark*

I would like to introduce myself to you as you pray and discern who to vote for in the forthcoming election for General Synod in the Southwark Diocese.

- 27 years old
- Married to Marcus, a civil servant
- Member of St John's Blackheath
- Charismatic Evangelical
- Theology Graduate, Durham University 2013-16
- Church Partnerships Manager at [International Justice Mission](#) (IJM) UK
- Formerly Culture & Emerging Generations Project Lead at the [London Institute for Contemporary Christianity](#) (LICC)
- Author of [Musings of a Clergy Child: Growing into a faith of my own](#) (BRF, 2017) and regular contributor to [Day by Day with God](#)
- Member of Archbishops' College of Evangelists
- Editor at [Fulcrum Anglican](#)
- Global Young Theologian for Tearfund



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As the daughter of two Anglican clergy, I am very familiar with the inner workings of the local and national church. I spent two years as the youngest member of the PCC at St James the Less, Pimlico, and I am deeply passionate about the differences churches can make to individuals, communities, cities, and nations.

I am convinced that the Church of England, with its presence in every community and on the national stage, has a vital role to play in the development and well-being of our society. We are called to proclaim the good news of Jesus and be guided by God to transform the places where he has placed us. General Synod plays a key part in that.

I am a **committed evangelical with charismatic roots**. I have a particular passion to see **churches integrate justice into both their theology and practice**, hence my role as church partnerships manager at IJM. This knowledge and experience will equip me to speak into some of the issues surrounding the impact of climate change on the world's most vulnerable, as well as the ongoing question of vision and strategy for the Church of England as a whole.

I believe the church has a responsibility to both speak and act in line with Jesus' mission and God's call to 'proclaim good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' (Luke 4:18-19 / Isaiah 61:1-2). This manifests itself for me not only in my job working to see an end to violence and slavery across the world, but also in my local endeavours. For example, I have been regularly volunteering at St James the Less Pimlico's Open Door Meal for the homeless and vulnerably housed for the last decade. I was also co-founder and co-president of Just Love Durham – a community aiming to inspire and release every Christian student to

pursue the biblical call to social justice. Durham was the second university to join this movement, which is now present in over 20 universities across the country.

My three years as Culture & Emerging Generations Project Lead at LICC developed within me a **deep passion for lay voices and the power of 'Setting God's People Free' to be followers of Jesus in their everyday lives.** I am passionate about equipping lay people to follow Jesus and make a difference in workplaces and sports teams and homes across the country – no matter how 'secular' they may seem! – not just through spreading the gospel but through moulding culture and speaking up for truth and justice wherever they find themselves. I think this is particularly relevant for General Synod, which is a key reason I am standing for the House of Laity: to give voice to a younger generation of laity as General Synod discusses these issues.

I am deeply convicted that the church is called to be a prophetic voice to the world, but I am all too aware of the deep divisions within her. I am not naïve about the weight of responsibility this role holds, especially for this cycle of members. I feel called to serve on General Synod to build unity and consensus and to contribute my specific knowledge and skills around theological and cultural engagement, communication, justice, and the emerging generation. I will actively seek to give a voice to the younger generation of laity in the national church.

I am committed to generous orthodoxy, to active and prayerful listening, and to the *Living in Love and Faith* process.

If elected, I will seek to represent all laity, and I commit to being available to my electors and providing feedback where requested.

Please consider giving me your first or second preference vote in the upcoming elections, and do not hesitate to contact me on the details above if you have any questions.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alianore Smith". The script is cursive and fluid.

Alianore Smith

Proposer: Alastair Jones, Holy Trinity Clapham
Secunder: Katharine Mackenzie, St John's Blackheath