



STEPHEN STAVROU

I am standing for Synod because I believe in parish ministry, I know the Diocese well and I love the Church of England.

Proposer: Ellen Eames, *Priest-in-charge, St Christopher's, Walworth.*

Secunder: Mark Williams, *Vicar, St John the Divine, Kennington.*

Who am I?

I was born and brought up in a multi-cultural part of north London to parents of French and Greek heritage. I studied theology at both undergraduate and masters levels in Cambridge. Ordained in 2009, I am currently the Vicar of Saint Michael & All Angels, Barnes, an anglo-catholic church in south-west London, where I live with my partner Christopher. I have served in a variety of contexts, as a parish priest, a university chaplain, and in Cathedral ministry, mostly in Southwark Diocese. I also serve on an international ecumenical commission for the Anglican Communion, have taught doctrine on the Bishop's Certificate, and am an Area Director of Ordinands. I might best be described as traditional with regard to liturgy and theology and progressive on social and moral issues.

What I would bring to Synod?

- A passion for **parish** ministry and its flourishing both now and in the future.
- A **theological** approach and experience in dialogue across traditions.
- An **inclusive** ethos as a Gospel imperative for the Church's witness to God's love.
- A desire to **represent** the concerns of clergy and communicate the work of Synod to everyone.
- An **ability** to listen, to think, to pray, to change, to discuss, and a sense of humour!

Please vote for me

I have been closely following the debates of Synod for some time and I am aware how easy it is to criticise from a distance, and so my wish to be elected to Synod is to make a positive contribution from the inside. There are significant changes and hard decisions to be made, but all my experience as a Christian and a priest tells me that the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit are as compellingly attractive as they have ever been if they can be communicated with confidence and creativity to our country today.

What I believe is important:

The **parochial model** of ministry as the foundation of mission and evangelism, both in parishes themselves and in sector ministries. The use of Church resources to support people and clergy for core parish ministry first and foremost. We need a renewed vision of the parish and parish church that transcends tradition and serves the needs of our times without losing our past. The parish is our treasure and our future.

The importance of **theology** in decision-making and action at every level of the life of the Church and the Synod. In particular, the support of theological colleges and courses as places of study and prayer. We must invest in ministers who are deeply and thoroughly formed in theology and scripture in order to feed Christ's flock.

A strongly **inclusive** approach as a Gospel value and imperative. My own parish is a member of Inclusive Church. Issues of inclusion and diversity are the greatest social challenge of our time and the Church's faithfulness to historic Christian teaching must be balanced by prophetic witness to the new leading of the Holy Spirit. I will use my experience of working in dialogue across different theological traditions and approaches to build consensus.

A commitment to **caring for clergy** by taking forward reform of disciplinary and other processes that are not fit for purpose. Everybody needs processes they can be confident about because they are efficient, transparent, timely and protect against minor or false complaints, while also protecting the vulnerable.

A concern for good **management** that is inherently Christian, reflects Anglican ecclesiology, and avoids inappropriate corporate models and centralisation. The importance of the long view and local decision-making with regard to stewardship of the Church's resources.

I am very happy to talk about my candidacy or view on any of the areas above.

Please vote for me!



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