

## Candidate for General Synod

## Rev Jago Wynne



I would like to put myself forward to serve Southwark Diocese on General Synod, and am being proposed by Rev David Cooke (Holy Trinity Barnes) and seconded by Rev Lindiwe Maseko (Ascension Blackheath).

Despite all the headlines, **I don't believe the Church of England is on its last legs, sitting in a threadbare armchair, waiting to die.** However, bold decisions are needed to enable the revitalisation of the church to take place.

**My passion is to play a part in reversing the decline in church attendance in the Church of England and see growth in the kingdom of God as people are drawn to and transformed by Jesus Christ.**

Our clergy and people need to have confidence that the central legislative bodies of the Church of England are committed to supporting and resourcing parishes for ministry and mission. If elected, I will seek to keep the front-line mission and ministry of the local church as the Synod's main focus.

I would be grateful for your support in this election as your first choice candidate, and if not I would ask you to consider giving me a high preference vote. On the second page are details of how I could help on General Synod, and what others say about why they support me standing for General Synod.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jago".

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### Who am I?

I am a flawed yet wholehearted disciple of Jesus Christ. I am married to Susannah, and we have four children: Daisy (15), Boaz (14), Hope (7) and Theo (5). Since 2015, I have had the privilege of serving as the **Rector of Holy Trinity Clapham**, the first resourcing church in Southwark diocese. I am also the **Priest in Charge of All Saints Clapham Park**, a smaller church just behind Brixton prison.

My previous roles have been:

- Associate Rector of Holy Trinity Clapham (2012-2015)
- Curate at Holy Trinity Brompton (2010-2012)
- Ordinand, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford (2008-2010)
- Associate Minister at All Souls Langham Place (2003-2008)
- Strategy Consultant at Accenture including being Programme Manager of Accenture's relationship with the World Economic Forum (1998-2003)

## How could I help on General Synod?

***Church growth:*** I hope that my current experience of both a resourcing church (Holy Trinity Clapham) and a small-sized church (All Saints, Clapham Park), as well as sending out church plants and renewal teams from HTC, will be helpful in discussions at Synod about the strategy for church growth in the Church of England as part of the Archbishop of York's vision for the Church of England in the 2020s. I believe this strategy must be **centred on revitalising and growing worshipping congregations in parishes across this nation.**

It is worth noting that **I share much of the frustration of the "Save the Parish" movement.** There needs to be **a reduction in centralised costs** to allow for a focus on frontline ministry in parishes up and down the country. This focus **should then include frontline missional activity in some parishes in the form of church plants, grafts and renewal teams.** I fully agree with Rev Canon Dr Frog Orr Ewing's recent article, ["Do we need to 'Save the Parish'?"](#), where he states that "many of the frustrations articulated by Save the Parish are shared by clergy who are leading resource churches and church plants, so there may be a greater basis for unity in a shared rejection of diocesan forms of managerialism".

***Clergy growth:*** I do not believe that the clergy are a limiting factor on growth in the Church of England. Quite the reverse. **If we are going to see church growth, we need an increased pipeline of theologically-trained ordained leaders with a passion for sharing Jesus and loving people.**

I see a key role as a resourcing church is for HTC to be producing a large number of future clergy to lead parishes across Southwark and beyond. We have placed 15 people (9 men, 6 women) into the Vocations process in the diocese over the last six years, and are looking for this to increase. I hope that I can speak into discussions on General Synod to ensure that **an increased emphasis is placed on selecting and preparing larger numbers of suitable ordained leaders for Christian ministry within the Church of England.** Ongoing clergy wellbeing should also be an urgent priority for Synod, particularly after the many stresses of the pandemic.

***Christian growth:*** I serve in a church with an inspiring past. Holy Trinity Clapham was at the forefront of the abolition of the slave trade through the work of William Wilberforce and others who worshipped at HTC. Over the next year **I am doing research, in discussion with Bishop Richard, on how Wilberforce and the Clapham sect can be a model for us all on how to be and do church in a post-pandemic world.** This will investigate **the importance of integrity and combatting the continued negative impact of slavery today.** I am also the author of several books connected to my passion for **whole-life discipleship:** helping people connect their Christian faith to their day-to-day life.

I hope that with this background I can provide a positive contribution to key conversations on Synod - both in these areas, as well as other important areas of Christian growth and discipleship such as human identity and sexuality, listening and speaking with grace and truth.

## What do others say?



Jago shares my passion for the local parish church. His heart for Jesus and desire to see local congregations thrive and multiply in this generation offers us a valuable voice in charting our future course. Jago's wisdom, wide experience, ability to raise up leaders, boundless energy and sense of fun will be a great blessing to Synod.

**Rev. David Cooke, Holy Trinity Barnes (Proposer)**



Jago is passionate about revitalising the church and seeing growth in the kingdom of God. He has well rounded experience and proven ministry effectiveness. I believe that he is a great candidate and commend him for General Synod.

**Rev. Lindiwe Maseko, Ascension Blackheath (Seconder)**