

Revd Canon Anna Norman-Walker

Rector, St Leonard's Church, Streatham.

Proposer: Rev'd Mae Christie

Vicar – All Saints, Tooting

Seconded: Revd Sue Cooke.

Vicar – St Thomas with St Stephen, Balham.



About me

I am married to Arthur and have three adult children. I have been Ordained for twenty years and have experience of ministry in both the Diocese of Exeter (13 yrs) and Diocese of Southwark (7 yrs). I have served as a School Chaplain, Rector of four rural parishes, as a Diocesan Missioner, as a Residentiary Cathedral Canon (Exeter) and for the last 7 years as Rector of St Leonard's, Streatham. I have been a part of the 'Leading Your Church into Growth' (LYCIG) national team for 15 years, regularly leading and speaking at LYCIG conferences. In 2015 I was elected to General Synod (Exeter) but sadly my move to Southwark cut my tenure short. I would relish the opportunity to re-engage with General Synod and should I be elected to represent the House of Clergy for Southwark Diocese, my priorities would be:

1. The Parish Church

I believe the Parish Church is best placed to be the focal point of the Church of England's mission and ministry. If elected to General Synod, I will support the prioritising and resourcing of Parish ministry, ensuring Clergy are equipped and supported in the work they do, in the enabling of the ministry of all believers.

2. Unity

I believe that the breadth of the Church of England is one of its greatest strengths and is a gift to society. I value unity, but believe that often it is mistaken, (particularly by the media) to mean uniformity. The Church of England has held its unity (fragile as it might be at times) through debates around divisive issues, notably marriage in church after divorce and the ordination of women to priestly orders and more recently to the episcopate. I fully accept that to be an Anglican, is to be part of a church that seeks unity, whilst accepting our diversity, and to that end I am delighted that the approach to the same sex relationships debate has, in the first instance, been through a process of facilitated conversations, which put listening and our relationships with one another as of the utmost importance. We may never find uniformity on this, but we should continue to seek unity; it is crucial that we navigate a path that acknowledges our diversity whilst maintaining our unity as Christ's body in the world.

If elected to General Synod, I want to continue to listen to God and to voices across the Church, to understand how we can respond in a way that honours the theological and pastoral integrity of all Anglicans.

3. Women

Although we have made enormous progress towards the full inclusion of women in all areas of the Church of England, we still have a way to go, and there continues to be an under representation of women in the House of Clergy at General Synod (33%). I believe it is important this imbalance is addressed. As a woman with a broad churchmanship, committed to unity, whose ministerial experience demonstrates a clear commitment to parish ministry and mission I will make a meaningful contribution in this area.

4. Diversity and inclusivity

It has been a joy to experience living in one of the most diverse areas of the country over the past 7 years.

Diversity runs through the DNA of St Leonard's; socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, LGBTQI+, disability and generational. This inspires an openness, which enriches and shapes our community. During my tenure, St Leonard's has joined the Inclusive Church network. If elected to General Synod, I would be a voice for greater diversity and inclusivity in the Church of England.

5. Living in Love and Faith

During my first term serving on General Synod, I participated in the shared conversations and found the approach to be helpful, not least because it enabled a process of deep listening to take place. Since then, Synod has moved forward, albeit slowly and democratic decisions have been made, that now need to be implemented. We cannot keep kicking something as important as this into the long grass! There is an enormous amount of pain on both sides of the debate, and we need to find a way to honour the decisions that have been made, whilst ensuring that those who disagree with them can maintain their own theological integrity within their churches.

I am personally supportive of using the prayers of love and faith in the context of standalone services, following a same sex civil marriage and I would also like to see same sex civil marriage as something that clergy are permitted enter into. Having said that, I am also supportive of those Parishes and clergy, for whom this development is problematic, and believe that adequate provision needs to be made to protect their theological integrity. If elected to Synod I will do everything I can to work for this outcome.

6. Sustainability

Synod has set some courageous targets regarding our commitment to environmental sustainability but the implementation of them has yet to be realised. This is in part due to the challenge faced by the stewardship of our ancient buildings. If elected, I would commit to helping find ways to enable Parishes to respond to the aspirations of General Synod in both practical and financial terms.

Contact me:

If you have any concerns and ideas / questions you would like to ask me please do not hesitate to be in touch: rectorstleonards@btinternet.com