



The important bits:

I've been married to Emma for 12 years, and we have three children, Theo (9), Arabella (6) & Cressida (3). With any free time I have, I love to make Lego with my son, practise cartwheels with my eldest daughter and have my nails painted by the 3 year old. Emma and I love exploring London, country pubs and opening our home with food and wine. One day I look forward to going back to the cinema and finishing a novel.

We were recently given a puppy, who we named Phoebe. She plays a strong role in the life of our family and in the life of the church.

I am minister-in-charge of St Peter's Vauxhall having been licensed the Wednesday before Lockdown. Before that, associate minister of HTC and curate in North London at St James Muswell Hill. Before Ordination, I was a failed actor working in retail.

Rev Michael John

Candidate for General Synod

After spending time in prayer and reflection, I would like to put myself forward to serve the wider church, as one of the Southwark clergy appointments on General Synod. I have no doubt these two appointments will be contested by a good number of brothers and sisters from Southwark, who offer themselves to serve God and the church on General Synod.

I don't think any of us can promise to bring 'unity' to our divided Church, but I hope to bring a generous & humble spirit, my own experience & learnings, and a deep sense of calling & passion for Southwark Diocese and the wider Church of England. I believe we are at an inspiring moment in the life of the Church of England. With all that society faces, the deep tensions, and overwhelming despairs, we may be instruments of love with the message of hope. We preach that timeless message afresh to a new generation, the great story of Christ's love and victory over sin and death. Whoever you vote for, may we, as clergy, pray that whoever represents us would desire the Light of Christ to pour forth from our churches, in both word and deed, they'd long to see us aflame with faithfulness to Christ and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, so that the beautiful and powerful Gospel, the cross and the empty tomb, might be known to many up and down our country.

With love and expectant prayers,

Michael

Email: Michael.john@stpetersvauxhall.org

Mobile: 07540 469052

I believe I can serve the church as a member of General Synod in three specific areas:

Breadth on Worship: At St Peter's, we fundamentally believe in the message of the Gospel, but no one has a monopoly on 'how' you worship. We have two vastly different services, a traditional Eucharistic service, with developing Anglo-Catholic elements, alongside a low church, informal style (with BCP communion liturgy) with developing charismatic leanings. I believe in a church, at the deepest level (PCCs, budget, governance), that longs to see all forms of worship not only to grow but flourish.

Church Planting & Mission: The wider church hierarchy often 'talk' of new and innovative ideas but have no experience or realism of how that works. We do need new ideas, such as BMOs and 'church plants' but within the tried and tested parish system that gives a framework for the whole body. I am uniquely qualified, having grafted into St Peter's for my first incumbency, and learning the hard way in how to set up a BMO. My desire is to help not only the diocese but the wider church, in making sure that the things that don't work are not repeated, but what does work can be offered to other places so evangelism and mission can flourish.

Accountability & Transparency: Having served on Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Council of Trustees I have seen the desire to provide accountability and transparency, but this is particularly hard if we are not specific. Therefore specifically, I'd seek:

Accountability that resources are shared amongst all parishes: not just those with larger electoral rolls or special relationships to those on the inside.

Accountability in our discernment process and ordination pipeline: particularly amongst those from lower income backgrounds, educational experience, or theological diversity so that we remain a broad church which welcomes Anglicans in all sorts of shapes and sizes.

Transparency about clergy support: we must address where clergy support has failed and, sadly, continues to not be offered at all.

Transparency about vision, direction, and decisions: we need to know how and where the significant decisions are being made, including around the Strategic Development Fund (or Diocesan Investment Programme, who knows!) and how our resources are used for the mission of the church.

Proposer, Rev Erica Woolfe, Stockwell Parish Vicar "I'm delighted to support Michael John's candidacy for General Synod. Michael and I have worked together as deanery colleagues for several years and he has always been an encourager and an enabler of others across our traditions."

Seconder, Rev Jamie Mulvaney, North Lambeth Area Dean "I'm always grateful for the way Michael brings people together with warmth and a desire to learn. He models a deep love for the breadth of the Church of England each week and for the people that it comprises. He offers this at deanery and diocesan levels and would be a real asset to General Synod."