



Cheryl Bartels

PCC and Deanery Synod Representative at St. Peter's Church, Walworth
Candidate for the House of Laity of General Synod — Diocese of Southwark

Nominated By
Siriol Davies

Seconded By
Peter Chadwick

Email
bartels.synod@gmail.com

Why I'm Asking For Your First Preference Vote



About Me

I love the Lord my God, and I want to give my life in service to Him. Serving on General Synod is one of the ways I can do that. I want to serve a Church whose central focus is the Lord Jesus Christ and which bears witness to him not only in name, but also in action through worship, ministry, service within our communities and faithful governance.



Vision for the Future

I believe that the Church of England has a future: one that will be varied in its people, ministries and expressions. Over the coming years, it must navigate significant change courageously while holding Christ firmly at its centre. I want the Church to maintain a confident public presence in our schools, universities, communities and national life, while continuing to play a constructive role within the Anglican Communion and the wider Church through partnership and service. Through General Synod, I hope to help the Church fulfil that calling.



Professional Experience

Professionally, I am an IT Project Lead working across the Middle East and Asia. My work has equipped me to analyse complex information, ask difficult questions, and see decisions through. I hope to bring that practical experience, alongside my PCC and finance experience, to General Synod.



A Church for Everyone

I am an inclusive candidate because I believe in St Paul's conviction that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither principalities nor powers, neither the present nor the future, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38–39).

I, therefore, believe in equality for everyone, at every level and in every role within the Church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.

The Church must bear witness to the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.

The Body of Christ is for everyone, especially anyone who wants to be part of it.



How I Currently Serve My Church Community

Most of what I do is rooted in my own parish, St Peter's, Walworth. I am a member of the PCC and the Deanery Synod, and I serve regularly at the altar. I care deeply about the spiritual life of the Church, but also about the practical work required to keep a parish alive, active and financially secure.

Additionally, I contribute to parish life in several areas:

- **Parish Finance Task Force**
- **Building Beyond Activities Task Force**
- **Fundraising Events and Performances**
- **Worship, Community and Shared Faith**

My Priorities for the Church

A living, serving, worshipping and evangelising Church

"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:31)

I believe the Church of England has a future in this country. But that future cannot be sustained by institutional memory, historic buildings or constitutional privilege alone.

The Church must remain a living, serving, worshipping and evangelising presence throughout England: in parishes, schools, chaplaincies, public life and the ordinary places where people are trying to make sense of their lives.

- The Church should welcome renewed attendance while recognising that growth requires confident, loving congregations that are visibly active beyond their buildings.



Making service visible and participation possible

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

The Church already undertakes an extraordinary amount of work in local communities, but too many people, including members of our own congregations, do not know what is happening or how they can participate.

- National Church initiatives should be communicated through dioceses, deaneries and parishes with clear invitations, practical resources and simple routes for congregations of different sizes to participate.

Equality, inclusion and a courageous public voice

"Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:17)

I want a Church that is brave about the equal dignity of every person and willing to speak when communities are targeted. Migrants, refugees, Muslims, LGBT+ people, women and other minorities are too often subjected to hatred, suspicion and political scapegoating. The Church should not wait until a story has passed through the news cycle before finding its voice.

The Church of England has a national voice through the media, schools, Parliament and local communities. It should use that voice promptly and consistently, while helping parishes understand how they can respond locally.

Integrity, safeguarding and visible accountability

'For we intend to do what is right not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of others' (2 Corinthians 8:21).

The Church must be willing to speak truth to power, including when that power is the Church itself.

- Decisions, finances and responsibility should be transparent at every level.
- Safeguarding reform must include survivor support, independent scrutiny and clear accountability.
- The Church must be honest about its failures, because service cannot replace repentance and reform.