

F. Carter Pilcher

Dear Elector

I am writing to seek your vote to represent the Diocese of Southwark in the House of Laity of the General Synod.

I have lived in Streatham since 2002. I attend Christ Church Peckham where I am a Deanery Synod representative, and my Company and office are based in Brixton.

As such, I have a deep heart for the work the Lord is doing in our Diocese and the emerging young people full of energy and excitement wishing to know Christ. In 2 years, Christ Church Peckham has grown from 30 weekly attendees to averaging 150 each week—and more than 300 attendees this Easter. Among the Youth, which I have been helping to co-lead, attendance has doubled and even tripled on occasion. The energy in our parish lies in the ethnic diversity of those flooding in from the housing estates in the area, from its young adults -- many of whom are recovering from addiction or establishing new lives after prison, and from its expanding Children and Youth programs.

There are many ways I feel able to contribute to the Synod, but in more than 20 years living in London, I have never seen so great a hunger for Jesus Christ among the young, the diverse and those without advantage.

Much has been written and reported about the decline in attendance and growth across the Church of England. My career began in engineering, then law and finance, but for the last 20 years I have worked as a storyteller building a Company producing and distributing short films globally. Making a short film starts off every great film career, and to influence the next generation of the world's foremost storytellers for Christ, short films were ground zero. The Lord has been faithful: we built a global platform of the annual global theatrical release of the Oscar Nominated Short Films for 20 years and 24-hr cable/satellite TV channels for short films in the US, Europe & India.

It is these same skills and background that I hope to apply in the Synod – to ensure we together build a flourishing work among the young, the disadvantaged, and the diverse to ensure the multiplication of men and women of the UK in the Church of England.

In addition, I spent 6 years as a legislative director for a US Senator, so have extensive experience creating and passing legislation and working collaboratively in a legislative body with the broadest spectrum of alternative views.

It is a great privilege to represent our Diocese at Synod, and I have prayerfully considered the required commitment. I will devote the time and energy required to carefully consider each issue and will work with you, the Diocese, to ensure you are kept up to date and have a chance to give me your thoughts and input.

Sincerely

Carter

**Contact Details:**

Please feel free to contact me with questions:

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My proposer: Amy Bartlett

My seconder: Carol Gumbo

Personal Background

- Education: Astronautical engineer; US law degree, Finance Masters Exec program.
- The Gleneagle Road Household:
 - Unmarried. God is true to Ps 68:6 and sets “the lonely in families”. Share household with Ukrainian family who welcomed me into their family, and I welcomed them into my home.
 - Two boys have grown up here & gone to university & grad school, grandmother from Ukraine has joined once the war started.
- Career:
 - Extensive Legislative Experience: Worked for US Senator in Washington, DC as legislative director -8 yrs on Capitol Hill.
 - Wrote & assisted to pass key US k NATO expansion legislation
 - Awarded highest non-military defence award by Poland for this
 - Investment banking advising finance ministers and companies
 - Film Producer - founded UK company focused on “Shorts” – short films.
 - Voting member - BAFTA's film branch & Academy Motion Pictures (Oscars)
 - Board Treasurer of, US-based non-profit, giving grants to emerging Christian talent in music, film, gaming, literature and theatre
- Personal Relationship with Christ:
 - Raised in Indiana in strong Christian family, committed my life to Christ at 10 yrs old, deeply involved with Christian discipleship from university on.
 - A member of the Anglican church 25+ years. St Leonard's Streatham, Holy Trinity Brompton and now Christ Church Peckham.
 - Church plant to Christ Church Peckham: PCC and co-lead Youth ministry.

Why I am Keen That You Vote for Me:

I am deeply involved in our parish working with young people and with Youth in particular. A growing problem is that the Church of England has been unable to effectively reach the young from diverse, less fortunate, non-English backgrounds. The result is that these young people easily get locked in lives of drugs and crime, with no hope & no way out. Yet we are seeing that these are the very people with deep hunger for the Gospel and the peace and security only Jesus can bring. I am standing for the General Synod to be a voice for these voiceless, to encourage us to be fathers for these fatherless.

Our churches need to be places of warmth, to be centres of their respective communities, welcoming to all, and equipped to effectively serve the needs of their parish and of those in need around them. I uphold and affirm God's design on sexuality and marriage and its absolute beauty. Nonetheless, I am a single, celibate man working in the film industry, and can see it is essential that the Church of England love and affirm each person individually, as Jesus would if he were in our midst.

Our churches and our clergy need to reflect the full scale of diversity emerging in our local communities, as it is in Southwark. There is a significant shortfall in early preparation for those from disadvantaged communities, and it is my hope that there can be training programs put in place that will allow a flourishing of talent from less fortunate backgrounds, and from those who have turned to Jesus from lives of crime.

My Commitment to You:

- You may reach out to me via phone, WhatsApp or email and I will promise to respond and hear directly from you at the earliest possible moment. I will always do my best to be available – **I am working on your behalf.**
- I will always be prayerful about each decision and will consider (to the extent I'm aware and able) how you might wish an issue to be considered. **I am your representative.**
- We have a great mission the Lord has laid before us here in London and across the UK, and I will always reflect on His Word and His Guidance before I make any decision as your representative. I will always be aware that I am a custodian of your good intentions – **I am your servant.**

Thank you for taking a moment to get to know me.

I hope we can meet and I can introduce myself in person.

(There are WAY more funny stories that won't fit within these two pages!!)