

Election to the General Synod for Southwark Diocese – September 2026

House of Laity

ADRIAN GREENWOOD, Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Deanery

Nominated by Rosemary Wilson (Tooting) and Penny Lohead (Reigate)

Dear Deanery Synod Member,

Please give me a high preference vote (1st, 2nd or 3rd place):

I am seeking re-election to be one of the team of 7 lay people to represent the Diocese of Southwark on General Synod for the following reasons. If re-elected, I would play an active role.



1. General Synod is first and foremost the **legislative body** for the Church of England, operating under delegated powers from Parliament. It passes Measures and Canons and approves Regulations, Rules and other secondary legislation. It also authorises Liturgies and provides scrutiny for the Archbishops Council and others of the National Church Institutions (NCIs). As a qualified lawyer and long serving Synod member, I am very familiar with all these processes and know what can happen when due process is not followed.
2. The Bishops have articulated an exciting national Vision & Strategy for the Church (which I support) to be '**Christ centred and Jesus shaped**'. They want the Church to be a community of '*missionary disciples*', to be '*younger and more diverse*' and to operate on a '*mixed ecology*' basis, comprising parishes, chaplaincies, digital and fresh expressions— as we adapt to new ways of being and doing Church to reach out to our neighbours and communities with the Good News of the Kingdom at this time of anxiety, confusion and loneliness.
3. Other priorities are to **double the number of children and young active disciples** in our churches **by 2030**; a priority which I've been committed to for the whole of my time in Bermondsey through the work of Salmon Youth Centre.
4. I am also passionate about **equipping and enabling lay people to be the Church** and to achieving full mutuality between laity and clergy – the whole church witnessing to the whole Gospel in the whole of life and in every part of the Diocese - '*Setting God's People Free*'. To this end, I help to organise the bi-annual Woolwich Area Lay Conference and was the Deputy Chair to + Christopher of the Lay Council in Southwark for its first 6 years.
5. In the past 5 years, Synod has approved the new **Clergy Conduct Measure** and the **Abuse Redress Measure** and authorised new Liturgies for the **Creation in Christ** and the **21 Martyrs of Libya**. But despite much effort, we failed to complete the passing of the new Mission & Pastoral Measure and attempts to establish new central governance structures were not supported by the Legislative Committee of Parliament at the final stage.
6. Looking ahead to the next 5 years, the aim is to complete the **Mission & Pastoral Measure** in 2027, to establish new **Structures for Safeguarding** with a new **independent Safeguarding Authority** and **Complaints System** and to continue

with work on **Net Zero Carbon, Racial Justice, Estates Ministry and Diocesan Finances** – all of which I will support, along with submitting Questions and participating in debates.

7. On **sexuality and marriage**, the issues are intensely sensitive and personal. My approach is to welcome and encourage all who seek to follow Christ and, in terms of formal liturgies etc. it is vital that the Bishops and Synod follow the correct processes and operate within our theological and legal framework. I will continue to support the doctrine of marriage as set out in Canon B30 and the Book of Common Prayer, which is the teaching of the Church over centuries, derived from Matthew ch. 19 (indeed the whole of Scripture) and repeated in numerous recent reports from the Bishops. The two new Working Groups set up by the Bishops have committed to report by July 2028

A bit about me: *I am married to Marian and we have 3 children and 6 grandchildren, who all live nearby – 4 of the grand-children attend church in the Diocese with their parents. I attend St James Church Bermondsey, where I am Chair of the PCC Buildings Committee and a former Churchwarden and Lay Chair of the PCC. I am Secretary to the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Deanery Synod and joint Deanery Lay Vocations Champion, Lay Chaplain to Southwark Diocesan Synod and a member of the Diocesan Council of Trustees. I serve on the Legislative Reform Committee of the Archbishops Council. I am a member of the Evangelical Group on General Synod. I have the time, energy, commitment, experience and expertise to serve in this important role.*

*I spent the whole of my working life with a housing association in Tower Hamlets. So, I am steeped in the issues of the **inner city and the Kingdom values** of social, environmental & racial justice and the common good. My other roles include serving as Company Secretary to the Salmon Youth Centre, chairing a small charity involved with housing key Christian workers, deputy Chair of another Southwark charity which matches volunteers to befriend isolated older people in the community and a co-opted Trustee of a large Community Foundation in east London.*

Penny Lohead writes – I value Adrian's long and wide track record of serving the Diocese and his commitment to enabling lay disciples to flourish.

Rosemary Wilson writes – Adrian is very knowledgeable of and respected on General Synod; he was a great help to me when I started in 2021 and many others and continues to make a great contribution to much of Synod's work.

Thank you for reading this. I promise to be a faithful representative on Synod, listening to your views, speaking on your behalf and reporting back regularly.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR 1st, 2nd or 3rd PREFERENCE VOTE TO ADRIAN GREENWOOD – so that I may continue to use my experience as part of the Southwark team on General Synod.

If you wish, please contact me at 15 Aspinden Road LONDON SE16 2DR or 020-7237-6920 or amgreenwood@tiscali.co.uk