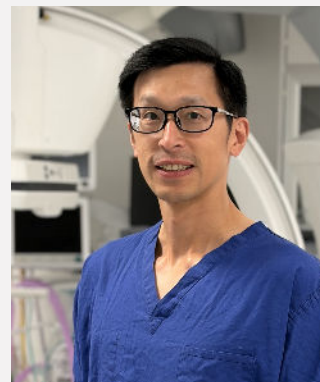


# Dr Dean Huang

Candidate for the Diocese of Southwark

Hospital doctor · School safeguarding governor · Charlton Deanery



## Dear Elector

I am writing to ask for your vote to represent the Diocese of Southwark in the House of Laity. I am a hospital doctor in the NHS, a safeguarding governor at a local school, and for the past decade a member of Grace Church Greenwich.

This election comes at the end of five demanding years — a painful reckoning over safeguarding, and hard choices about money and ministry. I recognise the enormous effort made by so many to keep our churches going, and that many of us are tired.

That is why three things would have my attention: **safeguarding that parishes can have confidence in, money and structures that serve local ministry, and clergy supported well enough to remain.**

I am only standing after much reflection and prayer, and the encouragement of people who know me well enough to have talked me out of it. I do so with some trepidation, but I will work hard and I will listen.

If elected, I commit myself to being a prayerful and faithful member of Synod: understanding the issues with the rigour I would bring to a clinical question, and seeking the Lord's guidance on how to vote. I will represent all the laity of this diocese, and I will be available to anyone who wishes to ask or tell me something.

## About me

At Grace Church Greenwich I lead small groups and help with the Sunday youth work, where I am cheerfully outnumbered.

Before that I belonged for ten years to a congregation serving the Chinese community in London, where I served on the congregation council and as a lay leader.

My wife and I have lived in south-east London for over twenty-five years. I am a safeguarding governor at a local school in Blackheath — in practice, the annual training, the policy reviews, and the termly visits that make safeguarding a whole-school habit rather than a filed policy.

I look after patients in hospital, where I am a personal tutor to medical students and a trainer of resident doctors, and I have served as their training programme director. I co-chair an international clinical guideline, which means bringing people who genuinely disagree to a text they can all sign, without blurring the difference. I help plan NHS imaging services across south-east London.

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## WHY I AM STANDING

The Church exists to make Christ known in this country. Everything else should be judged by one question: does it help us get on with the gospel, or get in the way? I want to help Synod do what serves that end, and question what does not.

# If I'm elected to General Synod...

## 01 — SAFEGUARDING

I will press for safeguarding that parishes can have confidence in.

Serious failures continue to come to light. They devastate those who have been harmed, and they contradict everything we say about the love of Christ. In February, Synod voted overwhelmingly to endorse a new national safeguarding charity with a board majority independent of the Church; detailed proposals returned in July, and legislation is to follow.

Independence has to be real rather than assumed — the last attempt, the Independent Safeguarding Board, did not survive. But a national body, however independent, is not what a child meets on a Sunday morning. Responsibility stays in the parish, and this year's independent audit found staff and volunteers there had limited confidence in recognising grooming and boundary-testing.

As a school safeguarding governor I have sat through that training myself, and I know the distance between completing a module and recognising a pattern. I would want to be satisfied that both the process and the capacity are genuinely in place, in parishes as much as nationally.

## 02 — STRUCTURE, MONEY, PARISH

I will keep the parish in view whenever money and structures are debated.

The argument about the Church's national wealth comes down to a simple question: does enough of it reach ordinary parish ministry, and does what is meant for the poorest parishes actually arrive there? It is not settled — Parliament sent the Church's own governance Measure back in March as "not expedient", and it was withdrawn — so it will run through the whole of the next Synod.

I have spent my working life in the health service, where the same arguments are had. I have watched local provision consolidated into central hubs for reasons entirely defensible on paper, and it is rarely the well-connected who fall through the gap that opens.

## 03 — CLERGY CONDUCT & WELLBEING

I will watch how the new clergy conduct process works in practice, not how it reads.

Two things test how a church values its clergy: the support it gives them day to day, and what happens when a complaint is made. The new Clergy Conduct Measure replaces a 2003 process long criticised as slow and burdensome for complainants and clergy alike. The next Synod will see whether the new system is better or merely newer.

Someone in difficulty should be supported while a matter is looked into, and the people investigating should not also be the people caring. Nor is wellbeing a soft subject: morale, pay and housing decide whether people can remain in ministry at all, and a church that wears out its clergy will not find it easy to call more.

Training doctors has taught me what a demanding vocation does to people when they are supported badly, and how much difference it makes when they are supported well.

## A closing word

Thank you for reading this. May I also encourage you to read all the addresses carefully and prayerfully? The decisions of the next Synod will reach every parish in this diocese.

**I would be grateful if you would consider giving me either your first or highest available preference vote.**

With many thanks and every blessing in Christ,

Dean Huang

## CONTACT

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I am grateful to Philip Miles and Annabel Holloway for proposing and seconding me.



### WATCH A SHORT VIDEO

Scan or visit  
[youtu.be/hsf0moEUBHE](https://youtu.be/hsf0moEUBHE)



Off duty at my local tennis club; the backhand remains, like most things, a work in progress.