



Jim Nurton

Candidate for the House of Laity
Diocese of Southwark

My belief in a church that is truly welcoming to all and is a positive force in our communities has led me to stand for election to General Synod. I would love to see the Church of England become a place of greater inclusion and equal opportunities, challenging discrimination wherever it exists and assuring everyone of the unconditional love of God.

PROPOSED BY

Joy Taylor

Member, Diocesan Synod

SECONDED BY

Lucy McGrath

Lay Chair, Dulwich Deanery

About me

I grew up in the Church of England and was confirmed in my teens. Since moving to Peckham in 2003, I have been a member of St John's East Dulwich, an inclusive church that welcomes a broad range of worshippers, for the past 20 years.

During that time, I have served two terms as church warden; have been a member of the PCC and Deanery Synod; and am a founding member of the Racial Justice Group.

Projects I have worked on include:

- Jointly leading a project to build a new entrance and toilet facilities to improve safety and accessibility, which involved raising £100,000 in funding
- Helping develop a new audio and video system during COVID for live streaming church services
- Co-leading an online discussion group on Living in Love and Faith, with 12 participants
- Overseeing the commissioning and installation of a new heating system for the church

I live in Nunhead with my wife Becky, who is a charity worker and volunteer, and my cat Katy. I enjoy cycling, walking, cricket, cooking, theatre and concerts.

Career experience

After studying history at university, I spent 20 years working for a major media company. Since 2017, I have been a freelance editor and writer, specialising in business and technology law. Relevant experience for General Synod includes:

- Familiarity with legal processes and language
- Knowledge of media, publishing and communication
- Experience of setting up and running a small business
- The ability to process information, extract key points and present them in discussion

Volunteering experience

I volunteer for a number of charities. I am a team leader for the Robes Project winter night shelter for the homeless at the Copleston Centre in Peckham. I help at the Goose Green Lunch Club, which provides affordable hot meals for people once a week during term time.

I'm also chair of a small charity based in Bermondsey, south London, which makes grants to a wide range of organisations working with young people in London.

My priorities for General Synod

01 INCLUSION

I am fully committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church. In particular, I believe there should be no discrimination based on disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. While we have made some progress in recent years, I know we still have a lot more work to do, especially in the areas of LGBTQI+ rights and racial justice. I also believe in listening respectfully to those with different views, and if elected I will seek to engage as widely as possible.

02 SAFEGUARDING

As a member of the St John's Safeguarding Team, I recognise the importance of upholding safeguarding, listening to survivors and putting in place effective measures to prevent abuse. I am committed to working with others in General Synod to address historic abuses and create effective structures to protect people.

03 ENVIRONMENT

I would love to see the church leading the debate on improving our environment and tackling climate change. Having helped obtain a Bronze Eco-Church award, I recognise the opportunities for the church to take action and provide leadership in this area. I also believe in the impact that incremental changes can make in improving the environment and setting an example.

04 CHURCH BUILDINGS

The Church of England is blessed with some beautiful architecture and spaces. As a former church warden, I'm aware of the challenges this can bring. I believe we should look at how to make better use of our buildings to benefit our communities, including by making them more accessible and welcoming, and by exploring diverse and creative uses for these spaces.

05 MISSION

The church has a vital role to play in supporting everyone who faces challenges in our parishes, including loneliness, disability, disadvantage, the cost of living and lack of empowerment. Drawing on my volunteering experience with elderly and homeless people, I want to explore how we can better reach out to show God's love and offer hope in our local communities.



Lunch Club volunteers and visitors

"I'm delighted to endorse parishioner, ex-churchwarden, and all-round fabulous person, Jim Nurton, for election to General Synod. Jim has a passion for justice and inclusivity, and a deep care for the wellbeing of the whole church. He will bring a calm and intelligent approach to the task, do give him your vote!"

Revd Canon Gill O'Neill

Vicar of St John the Evangelist East Dulwich

Thank you for reading my statement. I very much hope you will give me your **first preference vote**.

ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT ME
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