

**Election to the General Synod for Southwark Diocese –
September 2026**

**IAN SHAW OBE, St Barnabas Church, Southfields
Wandsworth Deanery**

**Nominated by Dr Krista Ovist (Southfields) and
Mr Tim Taylor (Southfields)**



Dear Deanery Synod Member

I am seeking your support to represent the Southwark Diocese in the General Synod.

About me

I am 64 years old. I have been in a single-sex relationship since 1986 (Civil Partnership in 2006, Civil Partnership converted into marriage September 2026). I am also dyslexic.

I come from a family which has been actively involved in the Anglican Church for many years: my late maternal grandfather was a lay-reader; I was a choirboy in two Churches in Caterham. My interest in the Anglican Church deepened since my studies at school of the Reformation in Europe and in England and Wales in particular. My theology is liberal Anglo-Catholic. My roles at St Barnabas church include being Churchwarden, organising rotas for readers and intercessors and being a chalice bearer.

Although I have been a member of the Anglican Church, I have been more proactively involved in Church life since my retirement in 2020. This proactivity was inspired by my involvement in the local community, e.g. Secretary to the Southfields Grid Residents' Association. These joint activities have made me realise the vast importance that the role of our Parish Church, and by extension the Church of England generally, plays in our local community/ies.

Prior to my retirement I was a Civil Servant from 1983 to 2020. Starting off as a Clerical Officer I worked my way up the ladder to retire just below senior civil service. In my varied career, I led on: policy development (equality legislation); project managing two controversial government bills through Parliament; communications on subjects such as implications of human reproductive cloning, GM food and crops, implications of offshoring jobs from UK to other countries, Europe and world trade developments, e.g. Doha talks in 2001; transferring assets and liabilities from the regional development agencies to central government. These programmes/projects, plus my work on promoting equality of opportunity, were the reasons for my being awarded an OBE in 2015.

I would bring the following personal attributes to my representative role: good interpersonal skills (being a good listener and a good communicator); good reputation for being an effective trouble-shooter, this is aligned to my ability to adopt a strategic way of thinking about issues/concerns/ideas, work out what needs improving and then assembling a team to carry out those improvements. Though I do focus mainly on the big picture, I can also

bring forensic skills to pay attention to details. I am also not afraid to speak truth to power, ensuring when doing so, I do so constructively. Although I like to face challenges, I have been known to remain calm under pressure.

I believe the skills, experience and personal attributes gained from work, involvement in local activities and my historical and theological interest in the Anglican Church will be of use if I am to be your representative for the Southwark Diocese.

What would I like to focus my energies on if sitting in the General Synod

I care deeply about the state of the Church of England and its ability to make a difference in peoples' lives. To do that, I do believe that more could be done to make the Church and the General Synod, in particular, more relevant to people in today's society, through:

- improving the way the Church of England responds to criticisms when made public
- ensuring (and updating, if necessary) effective pragmatic governance structures to help build and maintain trust in the Church of England
- streamlining bureaucracy in the Church of England to ensure that it responds more flexibly and pragmatically to future challenges
- empowering volunteers assisting their parish churches when serving the community so that they should feel confident in pursuing pragmatic courses of action
- ensuring that the Church of England, in its promotion of equality of opportunity, has processes in place to encourage those who have neurodiversity issues to participate more fully in Church life.
- ensuring parish churches not only act as focal points of activities in their communities but also as areas of peace and quiet for those wishing to take a break from today's frantic IT/24hours news world.

My commitment to you if elected

Strong and regular engagement (including consultation), with all Southwark Deaneries between sittings of the Synod.

Strong commitment to equality of opportunity for all in the Church and for those who come to Church.

When voting on motions etc., I will do so objectively and on the expert advice available and not guided by peer pressure or trendy thinking.

If you'd like to know more, please contact me at imks11662@outlook.com.

Thank you for reading this. I hope that I can count on your support.

Yours faithfully

Ian Shaw OBE
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