

THE REVD ANDREW TWESIGYE

CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL SYNOD · DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



CONTACT

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PROPOSED BY

Revd Andrew Beswetherick, Assistant Minister
PTO, St John the Evangelist, Blackheath

SECONDED BY

Revd Joel Soares, Curate, St Peter's, Brockley,
soon incumbent within Southwark

WHO AM I

Married to Sahar, with four children.

Curate in Charge, St James, Kidbrooke,
Charlton Deanery.

Electoral roll 110. Average attendance 84
adults, 30 children.

PREVIOUS ROLES

- **Curate in Charge, St James, Kidbrooke** *Jul 2025 to ongoing*
- **Ordinand, St Mellitus College** *Sept 2023 to Jun 2025*
- **Leadership Team, St Peter's, Brockley** *Sept 2022 to Aug 2023*
- **Associate Pastor, Elim Denomination** *Jan 2015 to May 2021*
- **Managing Director, Offbeat (youth org, Southwark)** *Sept 2006 to Dec 2015*

I am standing for the first time for General Synod, bringing something a little different: not years of incumbency, but current, frontline experience of parish ministry in one of Southwark's growing churches, running the food project, chasing the funding bid, and discipling a congregation week to week. My own journey to faith has taken me through several traditions, from a Catholic upbringing, through evangelical and Pentecostal worship as a teenager, to pastoral leadership in another denomination, before God called me into the Church of England, a home I found because it holds this breadth together in one body. I believe Synod benefits from voices shaped by that same breadth, and freshly and directly connected to what's happening on the ground in our parishes.

I'd be grateful for your support in this election, and if these priorities resonate, for your first, or a high, preference vote.

WHY I'M STANDING

I'm standing because of the particular vantage point my own journey gives me: coming to the Church of England from other traditions, and to Britain as a young person of African heritage. This has taught me to hold difference and connection together with care, something I believe Synod desperately needs more of in this polarised season. I don't want to represent one faction or one theological tribe. My hope is to represent, with integrity, parish clergy who are trying, faithfully and often quietly, to build growing, generous, outward-facing churches, and to make sure their concerns are heard where decisions are actually made.

OUR COMMUNITY

St James sits at the heart of Kidbrooke. Around 400 people pass through our grounds each week, through Kids Church, Brownies, Scouts, SEN Focus and Greenwich Food Bank. Our Friday Food Project reaches 30 families a month. Our Villages (small weekly groups) and "Host and Roast" gatherings are quietly rebuilding the parish's relational fabric, one table at a time, and it's this everyday reality, not policy language, that I hope to bring into Synod's conversations.

MY FOCUS ON GENERAL SYNOD

Parishes flourishing

Synod's decisions land directly on parishes like mine. I'd love to bring a voice that is closely engaged with the food project and the funding bid, not just debating them from a distance. My hope is that Synod keeps the revitalising and growing of worshipping congregations as a central, practical concern, and that resources, financial and structural, flow more effectively from the national and diocesan level down to the parish, so growth isn't limited to those already well-resourced.

The Church of England flourishing

I'm conscious of the pain and sensitivity around the Church's current tensions, and recognise they affect people across every perspective; retreating to easy answers on either side doesn't serve us well. My aim is to bring humility and honest listening to these conversations, holding the Church's tensions with integrity while keeping front-line mission and ministry as Synod's central focus.

Clergy flourishing

My hope is that clergy are genuinely equipped, resourced and sustained for the mission they've been given, rather than worn down by it. This touches workload, wellbeing and housing. It also means safeguarding that is properly resourced and consistently applied at parish level, holding the Church to the highest standard of care and accountability for the vulnerable.

CLOSE

I hope to represent the whole breadth of clergy across our diocese: not one tradition or faction, but the full richness that makes the Church of England what it is. I want to listen carefully, speak honestly, and report back faithfully after every group of sessions. I'd be grateful for your vote, and if these priorities resonate, for your first, or a high, preference.