

Vote Paul Waddell for General Synod

Proposer: Peter Graystone – Lay Reader and Lay Chair Sutton Deanery
Seconded: Ray Wheeler – Lay Reader Croydon Addington Deanery

I would be very grateful for your support, please consider voting for me with your first preference.

Why I'm standing again

I am extremely thankful to those that elected me to serve on General Synod five years ago. I have been a very active member of the House of Laity and there is still much more I want to help happen.

- **We need a younger, growing church** – The church has fewer families, and many children in our churches are leaving. I will prioritise supporting work to address this, and bring this focus to other debates where younger people are often overlooked. I really long for my children to grow up in a growing church.
- **We need a church that's fairly funded** – Parishes are the lifeblood of the Church of England. I love that wherever you are in England, there is a parish church praying for you. With finances difficult for many dioceses and congregations, I will seek solutions that empower parishes, whilst not avoiding difficult decisions. Where money is spent to support fabulous new worshipping communities, this should reflect the wide breadth of Anglican traditions, not focus on one or two.
- **We need an inclusive church** – I welcome the progress, however small, that has been made on LGBT+ inclusion in our churches through the Living in Love and Faith program. For over 30 years, one part of the ordination process was dominated by the hurtful and homophobic document 'Issues in Human Sexuality'. By your sending me to synod I was able to present the motion that removed it from use. I will continue to champion work that leads us towards a church that is inclusive, regardless of race, age, gender, neurodiversity, disability, sexuality, education or wealth.
- **We need a safe church** – Safeguarding progress, and the response to the Makin scandal, has been painfully slow. General Synod has been trying to do good and move towards greater independence in safeguarding delivery, so the church doesn't get to mark its own homework, a process which I will fervently support. Caring for the vulnerable in our communities is central to Christian mission.
- **We need a church that cares for our planet** – Caring for creation is what God has asked of us all along. We must continue to respond to the climate crisis by promoting ambitious and achievable environmental goals for our churches and their communities, providing resourcing and expertise to make our church fit for the coming century.



What I've done at General Synod

- I Served on the revision committee for the National Church Governance Measure, seeking to make our national church structures simpler, more accountable, and more transparent.
- I presented Rev Mae Christie's Private Members' Motion to remove 'Issues in Human Sexuality' from the discernment process. This was probably the biggest moment of unity found in the chamber during the Living in Love & Faith process, and perhaps the most rewarding thing I've done there in the past five years. For those reading this on a computer/phone, you can watch me do this by ctrl-clicking [here](#) or copying and pasting this link:

https://www.youtube.com/live/9msrW6Of9Qc?si=f_82xbZ2oXPw2wvu&t=8350

- I have contributed by speaking in the chamber to a wide range of debates, and contributed to amendments on issues as broad as the environment and sports ministry. I have done my best to build relationships with those who think differently from the way I do, as I firmly believe the church is called to unity, and our attitudes will shape what that looks like in a church that exists in a polarised world.



About Me

I hail from South Croydon, a place I've lived in and loved for over 20 years, where I live with my wife Stephanie, and our two children, Lydia (6) and Gabriel (2). I am a licensed lay reader at St. Francis Church on Monks Hill Estate, where I often also lead worship, do a bit of preaching, and play in the worship band. As well as my general synod responsibilities, I also serve on the Diocesan Council of Trustees, Diocesan Synod, and Deanery Synod. I have twice stood to be a local councillor in my home ward, but it turns out I'm better at winning board games than local elections.

Growing up in an atheist family, I came to faith at 17 years of age, inspired by the message and actions of a local church that was truly being good news to the poor. My faith inspired me to turn my back on an early career in banking and train to be an anaesthetic assistant for the NHS. During the pandemic I worked on the front line, in the theatres and ITU of a London hospital, seeing at first hand the difference that faith makes in a crisis. I now work at the Princess Royal NHS Hospital, where I manage a large team of anaesthetic and recovery nurses and ODPs alongside my clinical work.

Questions? Please get in touch: email paulmartinwaddell@hotmail.co.uk, or telephone 07540764596.

I hope you will feel able to take part in these elections, whoever you decide to vote for, and I will be very grateful for any support you are willing to give me, first preference or otherwise.

In His service,

Paul Waddell