

Dear Elector,

There's no greater joy than being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and there's no greater privilege than serving his family, the Church. The Church of England is uniquely placed to reach the nation with the good news of Jesus Christ. The General Synod has the potential over the next 5 years to make a real difference in shaping the life of our church around the gospel of the Lord Jesus for the sake of mission. After all, *"the Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members"*- Archbishop William Temple.



I offer myself to serve in the House of Clergy for Ely Diocese for the next Quinquennium. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. **Thank you for reading and please consider placing me in first, second or third place in the STV vote.**

Yours in Christ, Charlie Newcombe.

My story....

- I've been following **Jesus** for 35 years.
- I'll turn **46** during the voting period.
- I'm **husband** to Emma and **father** to 3 primary school age daughters.
- I've been **ordained** for 14 years.
- I've ministered in the **Dioceses** of Southwark, Europe and Ely, in suburban, city centre and market town settings.
- I've grown up experiencing the **breadth of the CofE** from various evangelical settings to Anglo-Catholic.
- With the warm encouragement of Bishop Stephen, I led a church plant to Huntingdon in September 2018 under a Bishop's Mission Order. God has graciously built up **Christ Church Huntingdon** from a praying core group of 20 from three churches to a worshipping community of around 80 in recent days (see photo on page 2).
- I collect **maps** and **marmite** jars (I hope my candidacy doesn't provoke such strong reactions)!
- For **90 seconds** more see a short video at vimeo.com/599537680.

My local HCRfm radio broadcasts...

christchurchhuntingdon.blogspot.com/

My experience...

- **Synodical processes.** I've been on the Ely Diocesan Synod for 6 years, and previously on the Archdeaconry Synod of the Benelux.
- **Applied theology.** I've been part of the Changing Market Towns working group and theological discussion group for the last few years.
- An **entrepreneurial approach.** We have sought to use innovative ways to reach out to serve some of the most deprived in Huntingdon.
- **Clear communication.** I seek to use jargon-free language in preaching, report writing and local community radio (see below left).
- Ministry across a range of settings within the '**mixed ecology**' of the CofE has taught me that there is room for a diversity of worshipping expressions, all of which need to value one another with generosity.

My contact details...

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My perspective on some current issues...

1. **Covid impact on the church.** The General Synod will need wisdom to grapple with the financial and mental health impact of the pandemic. A focus on church growth will be key to rebuilding rather than managing for decline. Rapid reconsideration also needs to be given to a safe and theologically rigorous way of enabling Holy Communion in both kinds, as we navigate the current phase and safeguard for the future.
2. **Sexuality.** I hold to the apostolic teaching that has been the doctrine of the church for the last two millenia. I believe this is good news for all (including my own LGBT+ friends inside and outside the church). However, LLF has shown us the urgent need to listen with grace and generosity across different perspectives and I am praying that we would all become better at allowing scriptural faithfulness to be expressed in a pastorally sensitive way.
3. **Climate Change.** General Synod's desire for the CofE to become carbon neutral by 2030 is a commendable goal. I was glad to be able to vote for several positive "green" steps at the recent Diocesan Synod debate. Serious work will now be needed to make these happen!
4. **Clergy Discipline.** The process (a fairly blunt tool) needs streamlining so that it is less drawn out, consistently fair and responds proportionally and appropriately to each case.

My proposer and seconder...

Rev Frank Price, Vicar, St Matthew's Cambridge- *I've known Charlie long enough to see that his heart is in mission and he's passionate about Jesus. He'll bring fresh energy and a positive approach. He is known for what he is 'for' and not what he is 'against.'* I've always found Charlie to be a good listener, gentle and collaborative. Charlie has a great track record reaching a younger generation without diluting the historic Christian faith in all its depth.

Rev Dorothy Peyton Jones, Associate Priest, St Andrew's Chesterton- *Charlie and I have our differences, but I believe synod needs those who can work with and respect diversity. I have seen Charlie in deanery chapter for years, deliberately building bridges with those furthest from him theologically. I have also enjoyed a fruitful partnership with him in workplace chaplaincy, organising the Cambridge City Workers Carol Service, which his parish hosted. His warmth, openness and diligence were very valuable. I commend him to you.*

My commitment...

- **I will seek to be available.** I want to be able to represent the issues and perspectives of clergy fairly across the traditions. My contact details are included if you have questions.
- **I will seek to be gracious.** I have always sought to work with respect and generosity towards those with whom I disagree.
- **I will seek to be faithful** above all to the Scriptures and the rich heritage of the CofE so that we can "proclaim afresh" the faith in this generation effectively and urgently.

