

# Thomas Nixon

Election Address



Age: 34

Occupation: Eye Surgeon

Location: Hauxton (Cambridge)

Current Role: Treasurer for Hauxton PCC

I am motivated to stand for General Synod because I believe in

- Save the Parish – I believe the Parish system is a great asset, and distinguishing feature, of the Church of England, and it must be a priority to maintain and improve it. Funding must be prioritised to support parish ministry and develop worship and mission from a parish base. New developments and initiatives must be collaborative with the existing parish system to allow the community to build together.

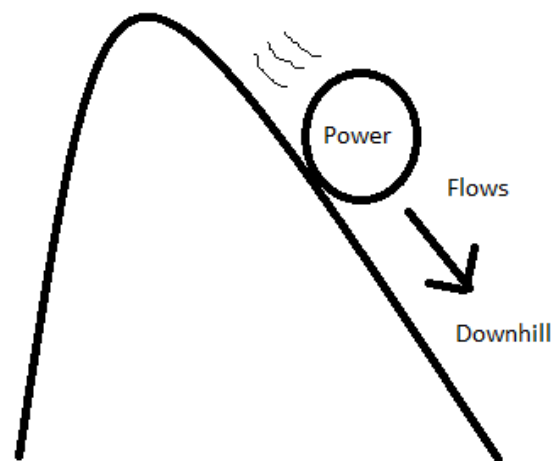


- A Focus on Worship and Resistance to Managerialism – I believe in the prime focus of the Church as Christian Worship and Mission. As I also experience in the health sector, sometimes Managerialism can creep in and with the best of intentions, focus can be diverted to 'key performance indicators' and away from the core purpose. I want to support measures that address how to lead the National Church as a source of Christian Inspiration, but avoid the distractions of management jargon.



- Theologically Trained, Church Based Worship—I believe in robust theological training and paid clergy, complemented with lay ministry in a parish context. I am wary of proposals for a large expansion of lay led churches outside of church buildings, which risk restricting church and ministry to the independently wealthy and well connected, and are less visible and accountable to the community.

- An Inclusive Church - I support the equality of all people in all areas of church life, regardless of sex, disability, ethnicity or sexual orientation. All are welcome in the Church and all must \*feel\* welcome. There must be equality of opportunity for all people, and the Church must be able to recognise committed life-long relationships between people regardless of sex.
- Finding the Missing National Church – I believe the Church of England can play a great role in the Spiritual Life of the country, providing meaning and inspiration to the whole population. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe our voice was missing during a time when the nation was in a time of despair and fear of death – the Church stayed silent, apart from orders to ‘shut up shop’ and withdraw the Sacraments. The Church has an important role in providing comfort and guidance to those in distress, including where that distress is on a national basis, and I hope we are able to regain confidence to do this in future.
- Subsidiarity – Decisions should be taken at the most local level possible. If a churchyard has a tree dropping branches, risking a village bus stop or power lines, causing community upset, and the parochial church council and village community all agree it should be felled and replaced, the local opinion should be respected, without need to commission expensive reports and pursue a complicated Diocesan approvals process. I would be keen to explore ways to maximise local decision making.



What can I bring:

- I am new to ‘Church Government’ so bring a fresh, enthusiastic grass roots approach, bringing a new perspective and without tribal affiliation.
- I work in the NHS, another complex national organisational structure, so can bring a perspective for how complexity is managed in another organisation.
- I can offer General Synod informed input from a health and science perspective
- I have a young family with two small children (2½ and 6 months), so am motivated to have a church growing for the future!

If you would like to contact me to explore anything further, please email [trwnixon@googlemail.com](mailto:trwnixon@googlemail.com), or phone on 07840 381191