



Rev'd Canon Douglas T. Machiridza

House of Clergy 2026

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Who am I?

I am Rev'd Douglas Machiridza, a middle-aged man of a Global Majority Heritage (GMH) background. I happen to be married to Alice, a primary school teacher. We have three children, two of whom are now adults and the other just finished his GCSEs. I currently serve as a Full-Time Area Dean for Handsworth and Central, a role I have been in for the past 6 years 6 months.

Before that, I was Vicar of St Andrew's church and Priest -in-Charge of St James, both in Handsworth, for close to 6 years. One of the few Ethnic Minority clergy whose calling and ministry was discerned in the diocese and still serves in the diocese 16 years after ordination. **I happen again to be the only Ethnic Minority clergy on the Area Dean cohort and have been since the beginning of the initial cohort of 6 full-time area deans appointed initially in 2019.**

I am a very proud 'Brummie' who relocated to the United Kingdom in 2002 from Zimbabwe in Africa, working initially as a Senior Social Worker before answering like Mary, 'the mother of our Lord', God's call to serve the Lord as a full-time ordained priest. Ministry has been both exciting and challenging but I have mostly appreciated the privilege offered to serve others or God as a priest and also serving the church in various capacities such as in Synods, both deanery and General and on Bishop Senior Staff team and for many years on Bishop's Council among others.

What motivates me?

Fairness, Justice, Equality and Inclusivity are the four things that motivate me and keep me awake at night. **I am committed to equality for everyone**, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning, mental health, neurodiversity and/or sexuality.

This is simply because when I look at the church I serve both at a local, diocesan and national level, my heart sinks. **It sinks because the church seems and appears to be so divided and very exclusive, going against what Jesus and God intended the church to be a community of faith open to and for all.** As Archbishop William Temple said at one point, the church is the only organisation that is created for those who are not its members.

How ironic and hence part of my passion in ministry and beyond has been to advocate for a church that is more outward-leaning and focused as opposed to a church that is inward-looking and good at 'navel gazing'.

Proposed by

Rev'd Canon Catherine Grylls

Mission Support Developer, CofE Birmingham.

“Douglas' experience of how General Synod works, allied with his rootedness in Birmingham, and breadth of relationships here and more widely mean he is well equipped to serve the church in this role fruitfully in this next season.”



Thank you for taking the time to read this. **For an open, experienced and caring General Synod member, please consider voting for me.** Voting by single transferable vote, so if you are intending to vote for me, please put me as your first or highest preference. I would be happy to hear from you if you have any questions time before the voting.



Seconded by:

Rev'd Mark Bennett

Area Dean and Priest Missioner.
Kings Norton, Moseley, and
Shirley Deanery.

“Douglas' contribution to church life here in Birmingham and wider afield, makes him an excellent first choice for General Synod in this election. Douglas brings experience not only of Synod itself, but also from having recently led the West Midlands racial Justice board and as Area Dean of Handsworth and Central. His wisdom, enthusiasm and integrity will be invaluable to Synod over this next season. I strongly recommend Douglas for your first choice”

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Committees

I currently serve on the Racial Justice Unit (RJU) National Racial Justice Board and am also a member of the Grants / Funding Subcommittee of the Racial Justice Board. Recently stepped down as the Co-Director of the West Midlands Racial Justice Initiative (WMRJI) serving as Co-director co-ordinating racial justice activities and initiatives across 6 dioceses in the West Midlands region namely , Coventry, Hereford , Lichfield, Worcester , Gloucester and Birmingham.

What have I advocated for so far?

There are several, but the following have been key :

- Being an advocate for the Parish System (More funding and support).
- Championing Racial Justice, Equality and Inclusiveness in General's Synod and the Church as a whole. As an inclusive candidate in General Synod, I have always stood and continue to champion inclusivity in its totality in all church and especially Synod business.
- As a former senior social worker before ordination, safeguarding is another passion of mine which I engage with and in wholeheartedly.
- Environmental issues are also a huge passion of mine after serving on the Inaugural Diocesan Environmental board as a representative of the Area deans.
- Clergy well-being as an Area dean, one of my main roles is advocating for the well-being of clergy and their families in my deanery, and this is something I intend to continue doing as it is a gospel imperative.

Why do I want to serve again?

I have been on General Synod for the past 5 years and would love to serve again for the next 5 years, as there were still a lot of issues that were outstanding and still needed my contribution towards them. With the experience accrued in the last 5 years, my involvement and input will, I feel, now be much more robust and effective due to experiences 'gained and honed' in the past 5 years. The networks established will be invaluable in championing causes and missional issues relevant and prevalent to the Church of England Birmingham, and finally representation still matters; Racial Diversity in General Synod membership among both clergy and Lay membership is still an ongoing issue. Representing again the ethnically super diverse diocese of Birmingham on General Synod would be such an honour and privilege which I will not take for granted.