

Jenni Crewes

Nominated by:

The Rev'd Canon Louise Shaw

Seconded by:

The Rev'd Paul Hinton

I feel called to serve on General Synod because I love God and care deeply about the church both now and what it looks like in the future. I feel I have the experience, time and skill to do so at this point in my life and I am committed to be a voice for the Diocese of Birmingham. I would welcome your first preference vote.

Who am I?

Having recently turned 40 I thought life might slow down, however I have so much energy and joy in ministry, friendships and riding my bike or hitting the trails for a long run! I was baptised in my parish church as a baby and have been part of the Anglican church since, including the Scottish Episcopal Church whilst I was a student. Since I was a child, my faith has grown and developed, and I have always found the breadth of the Church of England to be an enabling body for my trust in God to be challenged, deepen and develop. I have worshipped in churches of various traditions and styles, always finding space to use my gifts and skills in various activities, such as in youthwork, serving on PCC, leading and preaching. I have been in the Diocese of Birmingham most of my adult life, arriving in 2009 as a theology graduate to work for The Feast, doing interfaith work with young people. Through helping young people live well with difference and working closely with churches of many traditions I felt a calling to leadership and sacramental ministry. I trained for this at the Queen's Foundation and was ordained in 2017.



I have been the incumbent at St Hilda, Warley Woods a little over 6 years. I came to this post after serving curacy in an outer estate parish in East Birmingham which was a real joy. I am passionate about parish ministry and enjoy the challenges and privileges of many occasional offices, working with schools and being part of a diverse community. It has been a privilege to see this church grow both numerically and in love for Jesus and others. Many of our new members have joined as a result of funeral and wedding ministry, and have found the church to be a place of peace, hope and a community to safely explore what it means to follow Jesus. Since curacy I have continued to support the diocese in interfaith work, working closely with Canon Dr Andrew Smith, whose work through The Feast first brought me to the region. I have also been part of a team offering training for Curates, Lay Readers and I currently have the joy of serving as a training incumbent.



Why Synod?

The church is called to proclaim the gospel to every generation and I feel a privilege to be a part of that. Being a priest in God's church has taught me so much about the value of the parish church and faithfulness of its members, and I am convinced God works through us. By serving on Synod I feel I can listen and gain insight from the work of God's Spirit across the dioceses as well as bring my own experience and expertise. Having worked across traditions and in interfaith I am able to sit with difference whilst holding my own convictions and sharing them with respect. Colleagues tell me I am courageous and not afraid to speak up against injustice; if elected I will use my voice to advocate for those people who are often excluded; working class, LGBT community members and BME amongst others.

Those nominating me say

'I have no hesitation in proposing Jenni to serve on General Synod. I have always found her to be a person of integrity; combining strong values with a caring and listening attitude. Jenni has at her core love for God. I believe Jenni will bring energy, depth of thinking and significant ministerial experience to Synod.'



Rev'd Canon Louise Shaw
Area Dean - Coleshill and Polesworth

'Jenni brings a life-giving, serious-minded and open-hearted commitment to the Church of England. She has demonstrated throughout her ministry, both lay and ordained, a profound and courageous determination to learn with humility from others as well as to use her voice fearlessly. I commend her to you,'



Rev'd Paul Hinton
Head of Ministry Formation



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 disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. It grieves me that as a church we historically and currently we do not always do this well and I am deeply committed to learning from every story and working towards a church that really does reflect this. I am always transparent with my theological views on this and am happy to answer any questions you have before you vote.

Over the next 5 years Synod will have a lot to work on; continuing discussions on our ecological mission and responsibility, supporting and encouraging vocations from working class backgrounds and the next steps following Living in Love and Faith. We need to work together on Safeguarding, continuing to transform the culture of the church. I bring both passion and experience to these areas of ministry, having been involved in training Lay Readers and Curates, leading my current church to join Inclusive Church and becoming a Silver Eco Church. If elected I would also be keen to be involved in conversations around how we continue to work alongside neighbours of other faiths, particularly as we see more polarisation and the rise of islamophobia and antisemitism. I am also very open to other areas and responsibilities that God might call me into.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and would like to know more about my views.

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