



Jonathan Pearson

Diocese of Birmingham
House of Laity, General Synod Election 2026

Parish: Gas Street St Luke's
Deanery: Handsworth and Central

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Dear Elector,

If you choose to vote for me, I will commit to: -

- Being prayerful in my service;
- Listening and learning as I represent all lay members from Church of England Birmingham;
- Devoting the time and effort to fulfil my obligations faithfully and sensitively.

Introduction

Birmingham is my home and with my wife, Becky, we have lived, worshipped and served in the city for over thirty years. Our three, now adult, children were born, raised and schooled in Birmingham. I am committed to the city, celebrating its remarkable diversity and talents, and mourning its challenges and brokenness. I am committed to Church of England Birmingham being good news to our city.

After considerable personal reflection and prayer, and with the encouragement of local Christians who know me well, I am standing as a candidate to represent Church of England Birmingham in General Synod. I am willing to serve and represent our Diocese and city in this role or, if others are elected, to continue to serve our Diocese and support our elected representatives. At this stage in my career I am not standing for personal ambition, rather I'm ambitious for the church in Birmingham to extend the kingdom of Jesus Christ in our city.

Church Experience

I grew up in a Christian family, attending an Anglican church and school, and became a Christian at nineteen. My mum was one of the first women ordained in the Church of England and served in parishes in Essex.

My wife and I moved to Birmingham in 1995, and worshipped and served at St John's, Harborne, for ~20 years. During this time, I served as PCC Secretary, as Chair of the church's mission board and at a city level as a Trustee of Chaplaincy Plus.

In 2015 we were part of the team that planted Gas Street St Luke's church, and I served as Church Warden and PCC Vice Chair for ~10 years. It has been remarkable to see what God has done during this time, illustrated by the 13 new worshipping communities that have grown out of this original plant. As Warden I had particular focus on governance, finances and safeguarding. I also co-developed and co-led a leadership development course for young adults for many years. Becky and I now worship and serve at St John's, Longbridge (Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery) in the mornings and at Gas Street St Luke's in the evenings. Over the past ~25 years it has been a joy to see our children mature in their faith as active church members.

Beyond local parishes, I currently serve on the Diocesan Synod and have taken an active interest in safeguarding, building on my experiences in parish churches and the NHS (see below). I also serve as Bishop Michael's representative on the Patronage Boards for the parishes of St Stephen and St Wulstan, Selly Park, and Christ Church, Selly Park. At the request of Bishop Anne, I served as a Bishops' National Discernment Advisor involved in the discernment of candidates for training for ordination. I am actively involved with the persecuted church in Asia, and I am a Trustee of The Reuben Trust.

Work Experience

I originally trained as an epidemiologist and have worked for over 30 years to improve health and healthcare. My experience includes: -

- Long experience with the NHS in Birmingham and the West Midlands, with deep expertise in governance, safeguarding, health technology and the health needs of our city and region.
 - I am currently Chair of Health Innovation West Midlands and Chair of the National Health Innovation Network – this is the innovation arm of the NHS.
 - Previously Chair of Birmingham Health Partners – the academic health research partnership in Birmingham.
 - Previously Independent Chair of the Sandwell and West Birmingham Health System, which is a very deprived, ethnically diverse population with significant health needs. In 2021 we won a Local Government Association award for our Covid vaccination programme.
- Senior roles in health consulting that required working with multiple stakeholders to use evidence and data to solve problems and make decisions.
- Experience as a serial entrepreneur with strong financial acumen. I currently Chair a health technology company.

I trust you can see I have the commitment, skills, experience and local understanding to represent the whole Diocese faithfully and with prayer.

Why I Am Standing For General Synod

Having spent most of my adult life growing and serving in Church of England Birmingham, I feel passionate about serving on General Synod to represent the city and to support the shared life and work of Church of England Birmingham. I am keen to help ensure the future of the Church of England continues to be a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can enter into relationship with Jesus, whoever they may be, and that the church is good news for everyone.

If elected, my priority would be prayer. To protect my time with our Father, to persevere in my spiritual and character formation, and to hold in prayer the people, relationships and business of General Synod. I would hope to contribute nationally, whilst representing and contending for Church of England Birmingham. Drawing on my previous experience the areas I would seek to contribute to include: -

- **Growing churches at the heart of each community.** Building on my experiences in parish churches and church growth, I support

investing, strengthening and growing the church in every area, with particular focus on areas with high deprivation.

- **Safeguarding.** Building on my experience in local parishes, the NHS and on Diocesan Synod I would look to ensure and enable the Church of England is a safe place for everyone.
- **Governance and finances.** Using my experience in these areas I would look to contribute to the ongoing National Church Governance Programme, so that governance and finance enable the mission of the church, including local church growth and safeguarding.

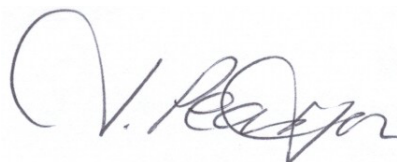
In addition, I would take opportunities to strengthen relationships between the Church of England and the persecuted church in other countries.

On sexuality my understanding of the biblical themes and the church's teachings since Pentecost leads me to hold a 'traditional' view. I believe we have all fallen short of Jesus' standards on sexuality and yet we are all welcome into His kingdom. I would contend for all our churches to be places where all feel welcomed, loved and cherished; and I would listen to and respect those whose views differ from my own.

Thank you

Thank you for reading this, and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. I would be so grateful if you would prayerfully consider giving me either your first or highest available preference vote.

With many thanks and every blessing in Christ,



Jonathan

Proposer: Obidike Ukaegbu – Diocesan Synod, and Warley and Edgbaston Deanery

Second: Anesu Muyambi – Chair of the House of Laity for Diocesan Synod, and Handsworth and Central Deanery