

I would like to offer myself to serve the Diocese of Chester and the wider Church in standing for election to General Synod.

Whilst I have been ordained for only 6 years, I have had a wealth of experience in the Church of England since coming to faith in Christ at the age of 16 in my local parish church. Since then I have served the church in many different ways including children's work, youth work, music teams, PCC, chaplaincy, and mission trips.

I have served the Lord as a full time youth pastor and worship pastor, and now have the privilege of serving Stalybridge as Vicar of Holy Trinity Church.



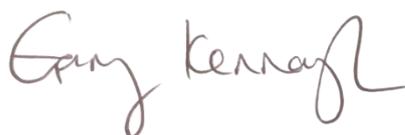
At the heart of my faith, I believe that the Good News of Jesus Christ is for all men, women and children of every background. However, I have a particular passion for justice and children and young people's spirituality. At our local church we run a foodbank, and CAP courses for our community and have an Eco-church to help us think about stewarding God's creation well. Additionally, we are partners with IJM, Tearfund and Open Doors as we work for freedom for the oppressed. I believe the local church is key to sharing God's message of hope and the parish system in our nation is a wonderful way to ensure all people can hear the gospel.

I am convinced that the Holy Spirit can grow the church. In dependence on Him, we as disciples of Christ must live and proclaim the gospel to the end that entire communities are transformed through faith in Jesus. I am passionate about locally-rooted, culturally-relevant local churches playing their full part in this God-given calling.

Whilst not a fan of labels, I would probably describe myself as a generous evangelical as I seek to model my life on that Christ-like balance of 'grace and truth.'

The following information and comments will, I hope, provide you with an understanding of how I approach the possibility of being elected and serving the church. I would be grateful for your support.

Thank you



### Overview

Current post	Vicar, Holy Trinity Stalybridge in the Diocese of Chester (since 2018)
Previously	Curate at St Marks, Saltney in the Diocese of Chester (2015-18) Ordinand, Trinity College, Bristol (2012-15)
Pre-ordination	Full-time Youth Worker & (Worship Pastor, Holy Trinity Sunningdale (2008-12) Energy Efficiency Officer, Wirral MBC (2008) NRF Project Officer, Wirral MBC (2007) Housing Policy, Wirral MBC (2004-07) Project Officer, Maritime Housing (2003-04)
Family	Married to Lucy, three children of school age: Talitha, Naomi, & Sam. Fan of reading theology, classic movies, walking, test cricket and football. Also enjoy real ale and single malt on occasion.

## ***Specific Issues facing the church***

### *Financial stress*

With declining attendance in many dioceses, along with the impact of the pandemic, the national Church is facing significant financial stress which is leading to reductions in expenditure and organisational restructuring. Some of the more deprived communities have been more severely affected and the next five years present an opportunity to think and pray into resource allocation. I am keen to support any motion that aids churches in more deprived areas having sufficient resources for gospel ministry.

### *Climate Change*

The previous Synod voted that the Church of England should be carbon neutral by 2030. I welcome this challenge and feel the church should be at the forefront of this change and a prophetic voice to our nation. I am looking forward to engaging in good discussions on how to implement this within the church.

### *Vision & Strategy*

The Archbishop of York has recently outlined a vision for a simpler, humbler & bolder Church, describing a church which is simpler in structure, serves the common good, and is energised and enthused by the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ. I welcome the opportunity to explore how the Church of England can serve the common good in an increasingly pluralistic culture, and I feel voices from deprived areas should be heard in this.

### *Living in Love and Faith*

The church is currently engaging with issues of identity, marriage, sexuality, and relationships due in no small part to the changing perceptions and practices in society. Whilst it is right and good to remain relevant as a church, it is also paramount to remain faithful to the scriptures. My prayer is that we can do just that at both at a local and national level and I will seek to engage in any process sensitively and lovingly under God's leading.

### *In Conclusion*

Following an incredibly difficult season in which we have faced a global pandemic, seen lives lost, circumstances affected, we have also seen God move in power, lives changed by the Gospel, and the church of Christ coming together to love Jesus and serve the community. We now have a real opportunity to listen well – to Jesus, to our nation, and to one another as we follow the Holy Spirit into all God has in store. The immediate future offers us a chance to think differently in order that we might grow as a church, making disciples and seeing new birth and new life in the Church of England. I truly believe this is an important moment in the history of the church that should be seized and we should be expectant that God will grow his church. If what I have written here resonates with you, I ask you to support me with your vote in this election –either as first choice candidate, or second or third. Thank you.

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Nominated by Revd Helen Scarisbrick, Vicar, Holy Trinity Gee Cross & Rural Dean of Mottram

Seconded by Revd Jonathan Philips, Vicar, St Peter's Chester

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