



Jacob Nicholson

September 2021

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my election address. Below, you will find details of my journey of faith so far, including ministries I serve in; areas of interests and involvements outside the church; a brief history of my career; and my thoughts on matters affecting the Church of England. After careful consideration and the support from those who know me well, it is a privilege to be standing for election for General Synod to represent our Diocese.

I believe that the next five years of General Synod represent a significant moment in the life and history of the Church of England and I hope to bring a level of enthusiasm, engagement across all ages, as well as prayerful discernment to the discussions that are before us.

These elections are important and your vote matters. I would very much value your first preference vote or, failing that, the highest preference that you are able to give to me. Please telephone or email me if you have any questions or would like to discuss further anything detailed in my address.

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Yours faithfully
Jacob Nicholson

About me

- Born and raised in Canterbury into a loving Christian household. The youngest of four but now the tallest!
- Worshipped at St Mary Bredin (SMB), Canterbury, for as long as I can remember. My mother served as Churchwarden for many years and we currently have four generations of our family worshipping at the church
- Attended St. Edmund's School Canterbury where I was elected as President of Interact (Youth Rotary), President of the Debating Society and I am a keen cricketer, hockey player and golfer
- Studied History at King's College London, 2013-2016
- Joined the New Wine Discipleship Year 2016-2017. This was an important part of my early adulthood as I developed my faith further and discerned God's calling on my life. I credit this year as being integral to the firm foundations of my faith and equipping me with the tools to enter the world of work as a disciple of Jesus, largely due to the excellent in-depth theological training from a wide variety of sources
- Served on various New Wine and other summer conference teams, including children and youth groups, St Andrew's book shop and coffee stands
- Actively involved in various ministries at SMB, including children's, youth, and students for over a decade. I continue to serve as a leader for SMB's student ministry where we welcome 20+ students to weekly fellowship, teaching, prayer and worship from the three universities in the city. I have acted as a mentor/support to numerous students over the 5 years I have been in this role to encourage them through their faith whilst at university – something that I valued from others whilst a student in London
- PCC member at SMB since 2018

Relevant career experience

I joined Mission Aviation Fellowship UK (MAF) in September 2019 as a Relationship Executive. MAF is a Christian NGO serving some of the world's most remote communities through aviation and I am passionate about our work and vision to see isolated people transformed by the love of Christ. My work involves managing relationships with trusts, foundations and individuals that generously support our work, grant application writing for sources of funding, as well as identifying new supporters.

Prior to this, I was manager of a local lettings and property management company. The business owner, Robert, generously invested in my early career by funding training courses and a qualification with the Institute for Leadership and Management. This time was significant as I progressed towards my role at MAF.

My perspective on some matters facing the CofE and General Synod 2021-2026

With the next General Synod beginning when the Church of England has launched its new vision and strategy, I believe there are some core areas of focus necessary to ensure the church is to be effective in the future. These include to,

- encourage the church as it emerges and rebuilds after COVID including the financial challenges the church faces
- find new and innovative ways to counter the shrinking numbers of young people engaged in church and encourage church growth – active disciples and lives transformed. As a young person, I am particularly passionate and fully invested in helping support this mission
- engage in the CofE's Living in Love & Faith material to find a consensual agreement on gender and human sexuality matters
- ensure efforts to uphold the highest safeguarding measures are maintained across the church at all levels of leadership and responsibility
- support theological orthodox training with strong biblical foundations
- care for the environment and work towards the CofE's target for all parts of the church to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030 – to promote excellent schemes such as A Rocha UK's 'Eco Church'

With my commitment to serve in areas of church life such as student ministry and my enthusiasm to see people transformed by the Good News, I believe my experience has equipped me with the tools to engage in these important matters affecting General Synod. As the church looks to emerge from COVID, find new ways to grow and set bold goals such as doubling the number of young, active disciples in the CofE by 2030, I am committed to supporting the church in these discussions at a national and crucially at a local parish level – the bedrock of the church. This is a time to be active, to engage in discussion and see real fruit of our work.

My commitment

- I will devote the time and energy necessary to fulfil the important responsibility of representing our Diocese at General Synod
- I will faithfully pray and discern God's will on matters affecting the church, nationally and locally, over the next term
- I will focus on the wellbeing and sustainability of our local Parishes and ensure I am sufficiently involved in Diocesan affairs
- I will remain available to you to answer your questions by email, phone or in person, receive your input and remain accountable to you

As a disciple of Jesus, I look to follow the teaching of Scripture in everything I do and trust God in all areas of my life. I believe I am being called to take on this responsibility to represent you at General Synod and help bring Jesus Christ closer to the heart of our city and villages. Crucially, with your support and first preference vote, I will make every effort to uphold the integrity of our faith. Thank you for considering my candidacy.