

## Church of England General Synod Election 2021

### Rev'd Philip Musindi



### Proposed by: Rev'd Paul Worledge

### Seconded by: Rev'd Andy Bawtree

I was born in Uganda and raised up in a Christian family there. I am married to Rev. Beatrice, currently a prison chaplain, who I met in theological training when we were both called to serve the Church of Uganda. We have three children aged between 20-25. Ordained in 1987, I continued my theological education for the MTh degree in Wales, where Beatrice and I continued our ministries, until we moved to Canterbury Diocese. Thus, I have served in three provinces of the Anglican Communion in the Church of Uganda; the Church in Wales; and Church of England. Latterly I have served on Canterbury Diocesan Synod, as Visitors Chaplain at Canterbury Cathedral, on the diocese's Generosity Project Team, and now as Joint Area Dean of Thanet Deanery.

My home province, the Church of Uganda, has remained faithful to the missionary spirit and ethos of its founders. Evangelism/mission is still at the fore front, and this is a great passion in my ministry. I have experience in parish ministry for over 30 years, serving in very diverse parishes in England and Wales. Each parish has its own culture, and specific challenges; all widely contrasting experiences. Adapting to diversity has taught me the importance of continually learning, growing and developing gifts of ministry from God.

However, with mission and evangelism there must always be a strong pastoral emphasis in ministry, because young Christians, indeed a young church, needs a wise and caring pastoral leadership, a calling to be "skilful shepherds." This approach has borne fruit in God's blessing in my parishes in Wales, but especially in my latter years in Broadstairs, where our church has seen significant growth both spiritually and numerically. I would use this as the basis of my approach to General Synod if elected to serve.

My role on General Synod will be that of a voice for Canterbury in the debate on all matters concerning the church today. I will seek to promote our diocesan vision of 'Changed Lives: Changing Lives', stressing the need for the church to live the Apostolic mission of service in God's world. What is the reality of this Apostolic mission? I would like to suggest that our church needs to engage in an active promotion of social justice, loudly challenging the social and racial discrimination that blights society. Our church would also need to passionately assume a role as stewards of God's creation, working in partnerships with younger generations. Above all, ours would need to be a church that strives to invite, equip and inspire all of God's people into God's mission, where Christ is at the centre of everything it seeks to achieve.

Drawing from my background and life experience it should be no surprise that I have a particular interest in discussions and active work that highlight and alleviate poverty, both at home and at international level. I have an informed concern about the plight of African nations, especially in the ongoing struggle to control the HIV and Aids epidemic.

However, my foremost concern is the need for the local church to experience God's grace to become a dynamic presence in the local communities of our diocese – and to flourish. I hope you will consider voting for me in order that I may bring this voice to General Synod as your representative. Thank you for reading this address.

*Philip Musindi*