

Nathan Obokoh

General Synod Candidate Address



My personal desire has been to really know God as a friend, be continually transformed by Him and share that living, natural and supernatural friendship with others. My desire for the Church is that as with Ephesians 4: 1-16 we would individually and corporately be built up as the body of Christ, ministering to one another with the Holy Spirit's gifts and Christ's offices, being continually transformed by God, growing in truth, love and wisdom, living out of Scripture, and bringing that life powerfully to others. A natural missional invitation, in step with the Holy Spirit, to every part of society in our nation, and throughout the anglican communion.

So far my life as a Christian has been a fantastic journey of loving God, His Church, the lost, and discovering who I am in Christ and His Kingdom. I have had the privilege to serve in various aspects of church life, including being on the staff team at HTL church, a youth, schools and children's worker, being involved in mentoring, missional community core team for young adults and PCC. I now run my own Kingdom business as a filmmaker, artist and actor and work with the diocese communications team to provide creative videos, artworks and ideas, which has given me an even greater breadth of experience of the variety of our diocese, both rural and urban. I also have the privilege of ministering around the country and internationally, training people to develop their relationship with the Holy Spirit in daily life with wisdom and courage and have seen personally and through testimonies how beneficial this can be. I also encourage people to explore arts and creativity with the Holy Spirit. I believe that creativity is a vital part of our humanity made in God's image and I aim to inspire the Church to embrace and explore brilliant creativity in relationship with God both as part of our natural expression

of life and because art transforms culture, and inspires transformation. I believe we have opportunity as Ecclesia to influence culture with God's Kingdom.

I believe I bring valuable perspectives to General Synod as a multi-ethnic (African-Indian) man originally from a multi-faith background and for some time from a zero-income household. Looking back, I can see God's hand upon me to bring me to faith and how He has taken me from someone who wanted to do good to someone who knows the one who is good. From someone who wrote a personal moral code and wanted to become a hermit to someone who has a living relationship with God and thrives best in His community of saints. I know the pains and difficulties of challenging false expectations and the difference between perceptions of Christianity and living as a child of God and seek to bring that knowledge to bear in my decision making. In particular, I know the value of learning to trust God beyond my own understanding, based on Scripture and being led by His Spirit both in the everyday and my interaction with paradigms, philosophies and ideologies both at home and around the world.

Outside of church I work as a filmmaker, artist and actor, I help to train patient interaction the NHS, I have worked with Leicester City Council, schools and charities in the city such as Home for Good and SoundCafe. In my youth I worked with a special needs youth group, was a Army Cadet instructor and was involved in student representation and leadership at Lancaster Boys, WQE1C and Warwick University where I studied philosophy and psychology. I believe this gives me a broad base of experience to draw from and the academic training to think deeply about the philosophical issues raised in society that we must engage with from a Scriptural foundation to make a good representation of God's Kingdom.

I'm looking forward to serving you, thank you for reading.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JW' or similar, enclosed in a circular scribble.