

MATTHEW EDWARDS

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Biography

I am a Reader-in-Training in a rural benefice in East Staffordshire, where I play an active part in my local churches, and love being part of a living parish. We moved here three years ago, and already feel very much at home. Our Labrador particularly loves the local countryside.

I work for the NHS as a Practice Manager in a busy city centre GP surgery, and previously had a background in linguistics and language education. The skills I have gained from both careers make me a confident and articulate communicator, with the ability to succinctly represent the views and opinions of all laity at General Synod.

Church involvement

2017-Present

Benefice of Barton-under-Needwood, Dunstall & Tatenhill – Lichfield Diocese

- Reader-in-Training
- PCC member
- Benefice choir member
- Worship music group
- Deanery Synod member
- Diocese of Lichfield LLF Advocacy Group

2012-2017

Parish of St Paul in the Jewellery Quarter – Birmingham Diocese

- Churchwarden
- PCC member
- Parish choir member
- Admin co-ordinator
- Deanery Synod member
- Engaged with local business networks and homeless organisations

Interests

I am heavily involved in music and singing. I co-direct a large mixed voice amateur choir in Birmingham, and a smaller liturgical singing group which brings Choral Evensong to churches across the Midlands who appreciate the tradition but do not have access to musicians. I also enjoy playing guitar in our benefice worship group.

Why you should vote for me

I am seeking your vote for my election to General Synod because I feel God is calling me to represent the laity in the important matters to be debated by Synod over the next five years. I am a committed Anglican with a strong desire to help Synod implement robust policies which are steeped in Christian values.

Important issues such as Financial Stress, Living in Love and Faith, Vision & Strategy and Climate Change are just some of the current challenges facing the forthcoming Synod, and I hope to be a reliable and Gospel-driven voice in these matters on your behalf. I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.

If elected, I am committed to being available and providing feedback to my electors.

I believe that I have heard God's call to me to be a voice in this forthcoming Synod, and I hope that prayerfully you might consider voting for me to fulfil this task.