

# Toby Wright

*Proposed: The Rev'd Canon Felicity Scroggie (Dean of Women's Ministry, Team Rector of Kidlington, Oxford Archdeaconry)*

*Seconded: The Rev'd Canon Richard Lamey (Area Dean of Sonning, Rector of St Paul's Wokingham, Berkshire Archdeaconry)*



Dear fellow member of the House of Clergy,

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission: I hope to inspire you to vote for me in the upcoming General Synod Elections. I've never stood for General Synod before - and I do so now because I believe this is a critical time for the Church as we enable parishes to thrive and build on our Anglican identity and ecclesiology to resource the future. I've served in my current post for over 10 years as a Team Rector and previously I've worshipped in each archdeaconry across the diocese. I believe we have a fundamental choice of what sort of church we are going to be for the future and I long for the church to be open and inclusive.

1. As a priest with over 20 years experience of parish ministry, and currently serving on the Diocesan New Congregations Board and the Diocesan Catechesis Action Working Group, I am passionate about **Mission and church growth**. I am at present co-leading a Greenhouse church plant on a new housing estate in West Witney.
2. As a father of two young children, I am passionate about the church **engaging more in whole-life discipleship**. In the Benefice we work with 11 schools and I am a governor of 2 schools; I've worked with ODST and other MATS and believe I have a strong voice for education in the debates that will arise in this next quinquennium.
3. As the husband of a priest, and as a member of WATCH, I am passionate about women's ministry and the need to ensure that **gender-based structural injustice is not allowed** to prevent women from fully being able to flourish in our church. I am also a passionate advocate that we need to become **a more inclusive church** open to diversity and becoming known for our welcome of others, including the LGBTIQ+ community and those living with disabilities.
4. As the Chair of Churches Together in Witney (and with colleagues who are Baptist and Pentecostal in my Ministry Team) I am a passionate ecumenist. I would be a firm voice for finding ways to **work closely together and build unity**.
5. As a former parish priest of what was at the time the most deprived parish in South London, I would urge the Church of England to do more to address injustice. I have seen first-hand the **effects of poverty** on peoples' lives. Leading a black majority church taught me much about the importance of UKME concerns. I also recognise the need for the Church to be **prophetic** in addressing climate change issues.
6. As a training incumbent involved in training 10 curates I am passionate about **funding new ministries** – both lay and ordained. I would commit to engaging with others and build support in these debates and speak for our parishes.
7. As a former Area Dean of 2 deaneries, I have seen the pain and difficulty that the CDM process can bring. I'm on the Sheldon Hub looking for ways to improve the necessary means to ensure clergy are held to account. If elected, I would be a vocal supporter for **humane ways to address discipline**.

I hope that you might decide to vote for me. And I'd ask that if you've decided your first vote is going to someone else whether I might gain your second vote for this vital election?

My strongest intent is around a deep connection with God and other human beings. I'd love to explore more of this with you and I would be honoured to represent you if you choose to elect me. Do be in touch with me if you would like to: [toby@witneyparish.org.uk](mailto:toby@witneyparish.org.uk)