

Barnaby Perkins

for General Synod

Nominated by

Rev. Jo Winn-Smith, Chaplain to the Bishop of Guildford

Seconded by

Rev. Gillaine Holland, Leader of the Bishop's Mission Order, St Michael's Community Hub, Sheerwater.



About me

I have lived in Surrey for most of my life and was a Guildford ordinand. I served my curacy in the centre of Guildford and have been the Rector of East and West Clandon for the last 10 years.

I am a member of the Society of Catholic Priests and profoundly value the Catholic tradition of the Church of England with its emphasis on Christ meeting us in the sacraments. However, I am not a 'tribal' person: I value the gifts God has given to **every** tradition and individual and try to remain open to receiving from those who are different to me.

Over the last thirteen years, as well as gaining insights into mission within a rural community (something I care about a great deal) I've engaged with the wider diocese through teaching on the Local Ministry Programme, being a young vocations champion, serving on the DAC, and being one of the working group (please forgive me!) who developed Transforming Church : Transforming Lives.

All of this has given me a wide awareness of our amazing diocese, the gifts that we have, the things to celebrate and the sorts of challenges we face.

I am deeply committed to the unity of the Church, though I believe that we can have unity without having uniformity. Should you entrust me with representing you on General Synod I will work hard to make space for difference while preserving the church's unity.

Living in love and faith

I long for the full inclusion of all people in the church, and I rejoiced when Living in Love and Faith was launched. I led my parish to engage with LLF at the earliest opportunity and I've witnessed the power of active and open listening. Through this process my parish has enthusiastically affirmed the inclusivity it has held for many years. We joined the Inclusive Church network in 2021 and have recently voted to use *Prayers of Love and Faith*.

My belief in inclusivity is grounded in the gospel and the mission of the church. I go into my parish school every week and teach the children that God loves them, no matter what. I want to help build a church where, as those children grow, they will hear and see that same message consistently proclaimed: when they are in their teens and asking questions about sexuality or gender identity; when they are older and they or their friends are considering their life partner. I want to help build a church which welcomes and includes, wherever people are on their journey with God.

Why I want to be on General Synod

Should you decide to make me your new General Synod representative I believe that I can make a significant impact because:

I care about inclusion and diversity — God's welcome is at the heart of the gospel. I proclaim this in my parishes and I seek to live it out in my life. I want to help the church nationally become clearer in its commitment to inclusion and diversity.

I care about the unity of the church — I believe in the church and am committed to seeing ways forward in which diverse churches and ministers are able to work within the bounds of conscience. I do not want to see the church split and will work hard to prevent this.

I care about the Diocese of Guildford — My faith and ministry have been nurtured in this diocese and I want us to be known to be the open, generous, progressive corner of the Church of England that I have experienced. I want to speak for those who, at the moment, feel as though their voice is not heard.

I care about the Synodical governance of the church — I believe that the church needs to act together, in a orderly and considered way where everyone's voice is heard and valued. I believe that synodical governance, imperfect as it is, is the best option we have for this. I want to be part of that and, perhaps, help make it better.

My commitment

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. Inclusion means everyone. No exceptions. Even those with whom I don't agree. I believe in a church in which all are genuinely welcome.

I want the Church of England to be a place where all people can be safe, celebrated for who God made them to be and can experience the fullness of life Jesus came to bring. The church should be a place where all people can truly belong and not just fit in.

To this end I commit myself to vote in favour of stand-alone services for the blessing of same-sex married couples.

Your vote for me is a vote for the church becoming more open and inclusive

Thank you for reading my election address. I would be grateful for your vote.



If you have any questions you can contact me by calling or texting **07801 891 960**, or emailing rector@clandon-churches.org

What others say

"Barnaby is an utterly dependable, faithful friend and Christian. His heart is that all should know Christ and I am confident on Synod he would prayerfully and carefully deliberate, engage and vote to protect the vulnerable, uphold the gospel, and seek our unity in Christ. I have no hesitation in commending him to you."

Rev. Jo Winn-Smith

"I am delighted to support Barnaby's candidacy for General Synod because I passionately believe that the church should be a place of welcome which conveys Christ's hope and good news to all. As chaplain to Kairos (a Christian LGBTI pastoral support group) I walk closely with those whose voices have been silenced, whose faith is questioned and whose gifts are denied an outlet in our churches because of their sexuality. We are poorer for their exclusion and our missional integrity is damaged as a result. Our Diocesan website rightly states our vision for a diverse church: Barnaby's election would signal a commitment to this vision of unity (rather than uniformity) in this corner of the CofE"

Rev. Gillaine Holland
