

Kim Mannings

House of Clergy

Nominated by

Rev'd Canon Malcolm Rogers MBE

(Area Dean for Huyton, Canon for Reconciliation, Vicar of St Gabriels, Huyton Quarry)

Rev'd Rachel Shuttleworth

(Vicar of St Helens Minster, Church St Helens)

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

I would welcome your first preference vote.

Who am I?

I came to faith at the age of fifteen, after an encounter with Jesus which changed the course of my life. Before training for ordination, I was an RE teacher in one of Liverpool's Roman Catholic secondary schools, and a youth minister, working with young people from across the local estates and beyond. I read theology as an undergraduate and, during theological training, completed an MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission. Being trained and formed within the Diocese of Liverpool for the entirety of my Christian life, I am wholly committed to our Diocese and to the Church of England.

What do I bring to the table?

- I am a strong believer that there is beauty in the breadth of the Church, having been nurtured within the charismatic evangelical tradition before falling in love with the unfolding drama of salvation found within the Mass. Formed by Word and Sacrament, and ministering across a range of traditions, I recognise the importance of cherishing the beauty in the Church's diversity; being one another's champions and not competitors. I would bring to Synod a unique voice, having ministered across the breadth of the Church, recognising the plethora of ways in which precious children of God are formed and discipled within our Diocese and beyond.
- Our shared call to the forgotten corners informs every part of my life as a priest, forever asking whose hands are missing at Christ's table. I would bring to Synod the passion to hear from a wider range of voices and advocate for those who go unnoticed.
- A distinctive part of my ministry involves working ecumenically across a range of denominations: a great joy of my life. We have much to learn from our friends in Christ yet often find ourselves within echo chambers. I would bring to Synod a willingness to listen and learn from those who are facing many of the same challenges.



The Bible passage which has followed me throughout my walk with Jesus is **Ezekiel 37** – The Valley of Dry Bones, reminding me that nothing is ever too dead, dry or too far gone with God.

- Vicar of Prescot since 2021
- Serving on Diocesan Synod since 2021
- National Vocations Advisor
- Diocesan Ecumenical Officer

The coming term of General Synod

Vocations As a parish we regularly welcome on placement those discerning a call to ordination and I have had the joy of being both a coach on the Directions Course and a Bishop's Advisor, alongside life as a TI. As a young woman who once tentatively knocked on that door, awaiting its closure, I recognise the importance of ensuring that *all* who sense the call of God upon their lives are actively encouraged to explore within a Church which welcomes them. We have been reminded of the crisis the Church is facing regarding vocations, with the predicted number of stipendiary clergy falling to 5400 by 2033 if the tide is not turned. I believe that change can come as we recapture and reclaim what it means to serve as a priest in God's Church, proclaiming to a changing world the promises of our unchanging God.

Clergy Wellbeing We know only too well that a major barrier to a rise in vocations is clergy wellbeing, as laity witness clergy burnt out and stretched far beyond capacity. As clergy are forced to turn their eyes away from the promises of the Ordinal to the hamster-wheel of managerial demands, Synod, more than ever, has a responsibility to prioritise patterns and solutions which are sustainable and life-giving, driven by love, not fear.

Finance It irks me, as a born and bred Scouser, to see our Diocese in such financial hardship, as many of our parishes seek to serve some of the country's most deprived communities. Pressure must be kept on the Church Commissioners for a fairer distribution of historic assets, understanding the impact that this hardship is having upon churches, communities, housing, vocations, and the wellbeing of its clergy.

Safeguarding As a former teacher, safeguarding has been part of the heartbeat of my life, recognising, in real-time, how slow the Church has been to catch up with the secular world, with catastrophic results. I support the steps that Synod have taken thus far but there is still much work to be done, exploring the specific opportunities and risks which churches face and the need for tailored yet highly accountable models of safeguarding.

What others have said

"It is a privilege to be able to support Kim in her nomination for General Synod. Kim is not afraid to grapple with the issues facing the Church today, but does so with grace and a commitment to understanding the various points of view which make up the debate. In my experience, she is an exemplary parish priest with an important contribution to make to the national bodies of the Church, drawing from her ministerial experience, her work before ordination, her representative capacity as a member of the catholic community in the Church, as a woman but, most importantly, as a reflective and bold child of God."

Rev'd Canon Malcolm Rogers

"Kim is a passionate and compassionate priest with a heart for those on the margins and those whose voice the Church all too often struggles to hear. As the youngest incumbent at Prescott Parish Church, and the first woman to hold that office, she is used to challenging the status quo. I believe Kim will represent the diversity and breadth of the clergy in the Diocese."

Rev'd Rachel Shuttleworth

I would be honoured to receive your vote.
Contact: revkimberleymannings@gmail.com