



Fr Nicholas Johnson

Vicar of Saint John the Baptist, Tuebrook

Proposed by

*The Revd Emma Williams,
Christ our Hope, Liverpool & Chair of the DAC*

Seconded by

*The Revd Canon Malcolm Rogers MBE,
Vicar of Huyton Quarry, Area Dean of Huyton,
Bishop of Liverpool's Canon for Reconciliation*

Why I am standing

I believe passionately in the future of the Church of England and her role in showing the love of God in Christ to our nation.

I love parochial ministry here in Tuebrook and believe such ministry remains the best way for us to reach the people in our communities. **The parish system is not finished!**

I believe the Church needs a defined, visible presence in every community, with one priest per parish wherever possible. We should be more confident in what we have received. We do not need ever more bureaucracy, novel ministry structures, and more management.

We need to make better use of what we have been given, and value our parishes, clergy, and laity, so that our Church can get back on to the mission field and evangelise our nation.

What I would bring to the General Synod

I am a parish priest in one of the most deprived parishes in our Diocese. Our parish has a full and busy worshipping life, with an important heritage building and other buildings used for outreach and service. I have also had parochial experience in the Diocese of Manchester.

In Liverpool, I have served on Deanery Synod, the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee, Diocesan Synod, and the Bishop's Council, frequently contributing to debates and to work on the Parish Share and the DAC Constitution. In particular, I stood firm in my determination to uphold the rights of parishes as Fit for Mission was rolled out. It was not right for my parish, so I sought to ensure that parishes could opt out. At the same time, I recognised that many would choose to take part and sought to use my skills and knowledge to improve it for them. I would approach my work in General Synod in a similar way.

I remain involved with the Prayer Book Society and its national outreach through the Cranmer Awards. I have worked with people from all traditions, seeking the flourishing of all.

Before ordination, I worked in law and am a Master of Laws in Canon Law. I bring this legal and canonical knowledge to my ministry and Diocesan work, seeking to use it to ensure that documents and programmes work properly for the good of all.

What Matters to Me

The Parish as Centre of Mission

Parochial ministry must be properly supported with national resources used sensibly to strengthen our existing parochial structure, alongside more equitable support for poorer Dioceses such as our own.

For most people, the Church is experienced through their parish priest praying, visiting, baptising, marrying, and burying.

All of this is mission.

Safeguarding

After repeated and distressing revelations of past failures, we need to win back trust. Safeguarding must protect all God's people and make our Church a safe and godly place for everyone. Processes should be clear, accessible, straightforward, and embedded at every level.

Enabling the Flourishing of All

Our clergy need time for prayer, visiting, worship, and mission. Much of priestly ministry cannot be measured and too often monitoring, 'accountability,' and meetings get in the way. Are all such meetings necessary? The answer is no.

What Others Say

**The Revd
Emma Williams:**

'It is my delight to nominate Fr Nicholas today for General Synod. Fr Nicholas is a man of deep faith, committed values and extensive knowledge of church law. His ministry is rooted in the flourishing of the urban poor, making sure their voice is heard at the table to which they have an equal right to sit.'

**The Revd Canon
Malcolm Rogers MBE:**

'I'm very happy indeed to support Fr Nicholas' nomination for General Synod as I have witnessed on many occasions his determination and significant ability to ensure robust discussion of important matters and proper decision making. He has an eye for detail, an appreciation of church history and a command of canon law which is invaluable locally and would surely be an asset in the forums and bodies of the national church.'

Our volunteers also carry considerable burdens and deserve a rigorous focus on what administration is genuinely necessary.

Confidence in Christ and Fidelity to our Inheritance

The Church often seems more preoccupied with structures and programmes than with proclaiming Christ. Our nation is hungry for Him, even if many do not yet realise it.

We should be bold in proclaiming Christian truth and the moral imperatives which derive from it. We have been admirably strong in opposing assisted suicide, but should also be confident in explaining the Christian reasons for our position.

The Church should remain faithful to the understanding of marriage set out in Canon B30 and the Book of Common Prayer, and I would oppose any change to this Canon. I recognise the increasingly broad range of views within our Church, and the need to approach this subject with charity and honesty.

In Summary

I am a parish priest in a poor community who loves the Church of England dearly and believes that she still has a vital role to play in our nation.

I would bring my parochial experience, legal training and knowledge to General Synod to help our Church fulfil that role by **supporting parishes, confidently proclaiming Christ, and ensuring a safe environment in which all can flourish.**

I would be grateful for your first preference vote, or for as high a preference as you feel able to give me.

The Reverend Nicholas R Johnson

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