

Dear brothers and sisters.

I came to the diocese as a curate 10 years ago and have still not managed to escape!

I feel called to stand for General Synod out of gratitude, hope, and love for the Church. I believe this is a moment to give back, to serve faithfully, and to help shape a future filled with courage, compassion, renewal and justice.

I stand as an ally to our oppressed LGBTQIA+ community because this is, for me, a matter of justice, dignity, and love. I long for us to be a Church where two men or two women can come before God, be welcomed without fear, and be married in the place they call home. No one should have to wonder whether the Church's doors, or its blessing, are truly open to them.

I stand as a member of the UKME community. I was born in England, have never lived outside the UK, and yet I now find myself afraid. Our country is no longer as safe as it once felt for those who look like me. Fear is growing, lies and misinformation are spreading, and the Church has a moral responsibility to respond. Much of this work must happen locally, but I am standing because I believe we must also ask, urgently and honestly, what more we can do together at a national level.

I stand as someone with long-standing experience in youth and children's ministry across four dioceses. There is an urgent need for stronger support for ministry among young people at the highest levels of the Church. As a 53-year-old vicar, I do not wish to be the youngest person present in one of my churches on a Sunday.

I stand because I believe I can offer a unique and relevant perspective.

Thanks

Rav