

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION ADDRESS

Warren Bohan

Local Missional Leader
St Luke in the City Team Ministry

Proposers and Seconders

Proposer: Dr Victoria Ekpo – Liverpool North Deanery

Seconders: Mrs Sue Mitchell – West Derby Deanery

Who am I?



- I worship at St Bride's, Toxteth and have served for eighteen years as a Lay Minister with Open Table Liverpool, a Fresh Expression of Church for LGBTQIA+ people, friends and families. I am the Inclusive Church Regional Ambassador for Merseyside and work for the Diocese of Liverpool supporting lay ministry.
- Born in Sydney, Australia, I grew up in a variety of Christian traditions, from Anglo-Catholic Anglicanism to Charismatic Pentecostalism. Following a period away from faith as a young adult, I experienced a renewed encounter with Christ that led me back to the Church and eventually to Liverpool, my home since 2006. I am married to my husband of 14 years, Kieran, and together we have built our lives in this city and diocese.
- My ministry has focused on creating spaces of welcome, belonging and discipleship, while helping lay people discover and use their gifts in God's mission.

“Our diversity is not a problem to be solved but a gift to be received.”

Why I'm Standing

- I am standing for General Synod because I love the Church of England and believe deeply in its calling to be a church for the whole nation.
- The breadth of the Church of England is one of its greatest gifts. Throughout my life I have encountered different traditions and expressions of faith, each bringing wisdom and insight. Our diversity is not a problem to be solved but a gift to be received.
- I want to contribute to a Church rooted in the Gospel, attentive to the Holy Spirit and committed to serving the communities in which God has placed us. I would seek to bring a thoughtful, prayerful and collaborative voice to Synod

My Key Issues and Priorities

*A thoughtful, prayerful
and collaborative voice*

An Inclusive Church for All

- I believe every person is created in the image of God and called into abundant life. I want to see a Church where people of every background, age, ethnicity, ability, gender, gender identity, sexuality, neurodiversity, experience and more are welcomed, respected and able to flourish. Our calling is not simply to make room for one another, but to value and celebrate the gifts each person brings to the Body of Christ.
- The questions raised by Living in Love and Faith are not theoretical. They concern real people, real relationships and real vocations. As a gay married Christian, I support the Church moving to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people, including the recognition and celebration of faithful same-sex marriages. I believe this is consistent with the Gospel's call to love, justice and human dignity. While I am clear about my convictions, I remain committed to listening well and seeking ways for the Church to stay together amid profound disagreement. However, our unity must never come at the expense of the God-given dignity, humanity and flourishing of any person.

Safeguarding

- I support fully independent safeguarding arrangements, ensuring that scrutiny and accountability are never compromised by institutional interests. The voices of survivors must remain at the centre of the Church's decision-making and cultural change. Safeguarding is intrinsic to mission; part of what it means to reflect the love, justice and integrity of Christ.

Mission and the Local Church

- The Church of England is uniquely called to proclaim the Gospel afresh in every generation. I have seen mission flourish when parish churches, chaplaincies, fresh expressions and new worshipping communities work together. We need both rootedness and innovation, drawing from tradition while responding creatively to contemporary life.
- I have seen the faithfulness and creativity of lay Christians across our diocese. The Church is strongest when these gifts are recognised, nurtured and shared.
- My prayer is for a Church where people discover the immeasurable breadth and depth of God's love, are nurtured in faith, and encouraged to play their part in God's mission. As followers of Christ, we are called not only to proclaim the Gospel but to embody it: seeking justice, challenging exclusion and serving those on the margins.

Listening Across Difference

- I value the breadth of the Church of England because every tradition brings gifts and weaknesses, wisdom and limitations. Good discernment happens when we listen deeply across our differences, receiving one another's gifts with humility and allowing ourselves to be challenged as well as affirmed. I believe General Synod is at its best when it creates space for that kind of prayerful, generous and Christ-centred conversation.

**I would be honoured to receive your first preference vote and to serve the Diocese of Liverpool in the General Synod of the Church of England. If you have questions please contact me:
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