

**Election for lay representatives for the General Synod of the Church of England 2021**  
**Blackburn Diocese**  
**Stephen Boyall**



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Please contact me whenever you like about any issue you'd like to talk about.

Dear Elector,  
I am writing to ask for your number 1 preference vote as I seek re-election to General Synod.

My name is **Stephen Boyall**. I am 34 years old and have been married to Lucy for 10 years. Since my last election address for election to General Synod we have been wonderfully blessed with another 2 children to add to our first child Ava-Jayne who is now 8. Seth is 5 and Eliza is 4. I have served on General Synod for the past 6 years with the extra year from the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic. I enjoyed my time on General Synod and attended each of the sessions and spoke twice – once on 'Fixed Odds Betting Terminals' as we as a Synod encouraged the government to limit the betting amount to £2. The other time I spoke on a report GS2055 – 'Marriage and Same Sex Relationships after the Shared Conversations'. It's a privilege to serve on Synod, have the opportunity to listen to debates and conversations and have input into Synod formally through speeches and also, more informally, over coffee and in small group work.

Over the next 5 years there is much to be done. There are plenty of issues to be tackled and worked through: -

- a financial crisis for the dioceses, Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners, not to mention Parishes.
- 'Living in love and faith' and how it will be worked out in our churches
- The Archbishop of York's Strategy to be a Christ centred and Jesus shaped, younger more diverse, humbler simpler bolder church with the 5

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marks of mission – (1) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (2) To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (3) to respond to human need by loving service (4) To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation and (5) to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

- The environment is a huge issue that needs to be looked at and I was pleased to vote for a motion to call for the Church of England to be carbon neutral by 2045.
- I want to be a support to clergy in the 'Wellbeing of Clergy' and in helping to craft and have a good clergy discipline which will help and care for clergy, as well as help and care for parishioners.
- There is the Archbishops' commission on racism which needs to be supported to see full flourishing of every person within our churches and no one faces discrimination.

I want to be constructive and a helpful presence at Synod to mean that the Church of England flourishes and to help safeguard the parish system. We need a Christian presence in every community, and I would want to preserve and support that in whatever way I could.

I work for United Utilities on wastewater treatment, helping to ensure that many of our rivers (Calder, Ribble and Darwen) have the least amount of impact possible from the population that live in East Lancashire.

I really enjoy that I can help to improve and protect the environment and see renewable energy made from biosolids which can be recycled as an agricultural fertilizer.

I love the Lord Jesus and I want to see him glorified. I would like to ask you for your Number 1 vote, or such other vote as you feel able, so I can be elected to General Synod. I would like to be elected to General Synod so that, as a younger man with a family, I can serve the Church of England by helping it to address the issues faced by young families, while also thankfully caring for the faithful older generation and through the Gospel bring as much glory to Jesus as possible. I think that this can be best done by the Church of England holding to the historic teachings of the church which I think the Bible clearly teaches, in everything we do as a denomination for the flourishing and good of the nation that desperately needs the good news of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen