

July this year marks the 20th year of my ordination at Blackburn Cathedral. Since then I have served God in urban and suburban contexts presently serving in Central Blackpool. I came from a non-Christian unchurched family when in my 20's, a skinhead and into punk rock, I had a dramatic life changing encounter with the Holy Spirit. I passionately want as many people as possible to have their own personal encounter with God. This is my driving conviction whether on synod or in regular parish ministry. I have a great love for the Church of England and believe passionately that the Good News of Jesus Christ is the hope for our nation and ultimately the whole world. During my ministry I have been privileged to officiate and worship in churches across the whole spectrum of Anglican churchmanship and I have always been able to work well across deaneries and on diocesan synods with colleagues and Christians of all traditions because I have great respect and love for those with different opinions to mine. I am standing for nomination to General Synod because I believe it is our vocation to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which Paul describes as the "power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1.16). This I believe is the message of the Bible that the Apostles and Church Fathers passed down to us encapsulated in the Creeds and Canons. I am deeply concerned that in our sincere endeavours to be relevant to our culture for the sake of the Gospel we are in danger of losing the very Gospel which gives the message its power in the first place by attempting to mimic culture rather than lead it by the example of Christ. I believe we should be a church which reflects the God who calls us to follow Him rather than a church that calls God to follow the culture. What's at stake ultimately is the salvation of our souls. It is this passion that informs my Theology and conviction on marriage, ethics and mission. I would describe my Theology as 'Scripturally Shaped Reformed Catholic Egalitarianism'. These will be the values I will stand for at General Synod should I be privileged to be nominated. I do hope you will prayerfully consider supporting my nomination.