

General Synod Elections House of Clergy Candidate: Revd Simon Tarlton



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*Nominated by The Rev'd Robert Ward, Rural
Dean of Ledbury Deanery*

*Seconded by The Rev'd Crispin Pemberton,
Rector, The Stowcaple Benefice*



Who is he?

Aged 57, married to Caroline, with one son, Thomas. Rector of the Bartestree Cross Group of Churches since 2019 and before that Assistant Curate, St. Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye.

Leisure is spent following the fortunes of West Ham United FC and Essex Country Cricket Club, fly fishing, pursuing an MA in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation and trying to rally the cricketers of Hereford Diocese into a winning team.

What does he offer?

A lifelong Anglican, Simon came to ordained ministry comparatively late in life. Although the first to acknowledge that he may not have the great wealth of parish incumbency experience offered by others he has derived great strength in ministry from his relatively recent experience as a member of the congregation.

Into ministry (and, he hopes, General Synod) he brings experience of commerce (twenty years in the shipping industry), horticulture (as a restorer and rebuildler of historically significant gardens), the world (having lived and worked in countries from Hong Kong to Russia, The Philippines to Italy) and the charity sector (as Trustee, fundraiser, founder of a social enterprise and pastoral support to Vennture).

Personal experience of, as well as research into, homelessness and addiction has helped to form a deep empathy for those in challenging circumstance and a resolution that the Church should do all it can to address these and other social ills. He is a 'hands-on' governor of Lugwardine Primary Academy and Independent Listener to Abberley Hall Preparatory School.

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Why is he standing for General Synod?

An Inclusive Church

First and foremost Simon believes in a truly inclusive Church. He supports the equality of all people in all areas of church life, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

It was a source of both pleasure and pride when, in 2017, and by substantial majority, Hereford Diocesan Synod voted in support of a Motion calling for Orders of Service following same-sex marriage and civil partnerships to be made available for those who wish to make use of them.

As a Church we have discriminated for far too long against those whose lived experience may be different from what is perceived as 'mainstream', 'traditional' or 'orthodox'. As a member of General Synod Simon will do all he can to bring these issues to the forefront of debate and to advance the causes of fairness and equality.

The Parish at the centre

Secondly, Simon believes passionately in the importance and centrality of the parish and its church as the essential (and critically endangered) building blocks in our Church of England. Without resolute focus on the parish the Church is in danger of losing its most remarkable asset and its unique and priceless foundation.

We need a radical reassessment of our direction of travel which recognises that it is the parish church, fully embedded in its community, understanding its local context and concerns that is the real engine room of mission.

In Synod Simon pledges to be ever watchful of, and will speak out against, all efforts to impose the top-down approach.

Addressing Social Issues

Lastly, he believes that the social issues of our time should be kept high on the agenda of Synod. Social upheaval, international tension, the plight of the poor and marginalised should be the issues which constantly exercise and prompt us to action, whether that be by practical action or by being ready always to 'speak truth to power'.

Proposer Robert Ward has been kind enough to offer these words of support;

"Since Simon joined the strength of our clergy team within the deanery I have been impressed by his commitment to the life of the Church of England at every level: his competence, his efficiency, his evident skills as incumbent of a benefice of five parishes, and his willingness to engage fully with contemporary issues in the life of the church, not least with LLF. I would enthusiastically endorse his candidature for the General Synod".

And finally...

Thank you for reading. General Synod voting is by single transferable vote. If some of the above strikes a chord with you too then please put Simon as high on your list as you feel able. If you would like to discuss any of these issues or anything else regarding his candidacy please feel free to contact Simon.