

Revd David Lower – Candidate for General Synod

Vicar of St Paul's Clacton-on-Sea and St Bartholomew's Holland-on-Sea

David.Lower@btinternet.com

01255 475900



Nominated by: Revd Tom Rout, Vicar, St Margaret's, Stanford-le-Hope

Seconded by: Revd Funmilayo Vaughan, Vicar, St Mary's, Frinton-on-Sea

I would like to offer myself to serve the Diocese of Chelmsford and the wider Church of England by standing for election to General Synod.

For the last 12 years I have served in the diocese first as Priest-in-Charge and then Vicar of St Paul's Church Clacton-on-Sea and also as Associate Minister and then Vicar of St Bart's Church Holland-on-Sea. I have served on Diocese Synod for nine year and the Deanery Standing Committee for nine years. Before moving to the 'Sunshine Coast of Essex' I served as Curate for four years in the United Benefice of Sileby, Cossington & Seagrave, Leicester Diocese. Before training for ordination I worked as a Management Accountant in the waste and recycling industry. I summarise the things I stand for as follows:

Putting Parishes First

My ordained ministry has almost entirely been spent with ordinary people in ordinary parishes. I still believe in the parish system and in the importance of local churches which should be front and centre of decisions made by those on General Synod. As article XIX reminds us, the church is the place where the faithful gather, the word of God is preached and the sacraments are

administered - it is a precious thing, as is the Anglican Parish System. I therefore believe that dioceses and their structures (and the wider Church of England) should be there to serve the parishes and the work and mission taking place within them. If elected to General Synod, I would seek to represent ordinary people in ordinary parishes so that local churches can flourish and take the gospel message to people in parishes across our nation.

Supporting the Poor

Living and working in an area of high deprivation I am naturally concerned for the poor, the marginalised and the people who are often 'left behind'. I regularly take assemblies in three local schools and frequent occasional offices so I am fully aware what life is like for most people in the country and the concerns they have. I know how hard ministry can be in areas with little by way of resources to work with and when faced with so many needs. If elected to General Synod, I would seek to represent poor and deprived communities so that resources can be channelled to support work and ministry within them.

Encouraging the Young

Over the last 12 years we have established a stable youth and children's ministry in Clacton-on-Sea. I firmly believe young people are interested in faith, Jesus, the Bible and Church. If elected to General Synod, I would seek to represent work amongst younger people so that the gospel is passed on to the next generation.

Helping the Clergy

Serving in a multi parish benefice I am all too aware of the pressure clergy are under, not just with the needs and concerns of the parishes they serve, but also with the ever increasing administrative burden the diocese and structures place on them. I would love to see parishes actively helped by the wider Church of England, to free them up to be the churches they should be. If elected to General Synod, I would seek to represent overstretched clergy so that they get more of the help they need to enable their ministries to flourish.

I'm married to Naomi and together we have four children (2 at university, 2 at school). I enjoy walking our two dogs and complete the Clacton Parkrun most Saturdays.

If you felt able to put me as one of your candidates of choice I'd be most grateful.

Thanks, David