

Clive Watts

Standing for House of Clergy General Synod

Nominated by:

Rev'd Canon Emma Davies - Canon Precentor of Leicester Cathedral.

Rev'd David Cowie - Rector of the Wigston Benefice.



About me...

I am seeking re-election to General Synod because I believe the experience I have gained over the past two years, combined with 25 years of lay and ordained ministry in Leicester Diocese and a previous career in healthcare leadership and specialist nursing, equips me to represent clergy effectively at a crucial time for the Church of England.

During my first two years on General Synod, I have actively contributed to debates on Living in Love and Faith, working-class vocations, safeguarding, mental health, poverty and pension reform. I have sought to bring the experience of parish clergy in Leicester Diocese into national conversations and to engage constructively across theological and political differences.

I am Oversight Minister of Soar Valley Minster Community and Rector of four semi-rural churches near Loughborough. I live with my civil partner, David, and Kasper the labrador and enjoy theatre, cinema and time off in Northumberland.

What I will work for...

Justice and the Marginalised:

I have a particular concern for social justice and care of the marginalised and believe that love of God and neighbour is at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus' teaching that 'what you do for the least of these, you do for me' guides my response to issues such as the cost-of-living crisis or our welcome of refugees. I am deeply committed to a Church which challenges injustice, including the sexism, racism and disablism which persist inside and outside of our churches.

Inclusion with Integrity:

I want the Church of England to be known for the generosity of its welcome and for rejoicing in all God's children, regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic background, disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.

As Synod continues its work on relationships, gender and sexuality, I will support change that brings greater inclusion and equity, while working honestly and respectfully with those with whom I disagree. I believe unity across difference must be rooted in integrity rather than avoidance of difficult questions.

What I will work for...

A Church that Sustains Parish and Innovation:

My own spirituality has been shaped by charismatic evangelical and liberal catholic traditions, as well as experience of other denominations. I understand the importance of different traditions within the Church of England and will seek to represent clergy across those traditions.

As the Church develops new models of ministry, Synod must support innovation without abandoning the parish system. I will work for the financial and structural reforms needed to sustain a Christian presence in every community, while enabling the growth of a younger and more diverse Church.

Independent and Compassionate Safeguarding:

As Synod seeks to establish independent structures for safeguarding, my prayers remain with all victims and survivors of abuse. The Church of England still has important decisions to make about how we ensure that those affected by abuse are heard, served and cared for with integrity and genuine compassion. I believe that an independent voice in safeguarding (as proposed by IICSA) is crucial, along with robust systems, enabling us to live the Gospel we proclaim.

Clergy Wellbeing and Sustainable Ministry:

I will continue to press for clergy wellbeing to be treated as fundamental to the wellbeing and mission of the Church. Alongside traditional models of stipendiary and self-supporting ministry, we need to be more creative about patterns of ministry and deployment, enabling people to find ministry that is sustainable and life-giving. I want to ensure that the new Clergy Conduct Measure is fit for purpose, fair, transparent and timely. I will continue to support reforms to pension and stipend provision and promote a diversity of vocations that more fully reflects the body of Christ.

Caring for God's Creation:

The climate crisis is one of the most pressing ethical issues of our age. The Church has a crucial missional opportunity to be prophetic in how we care for God's creation through our discipleship, our finances and our buildings and land. As the Five Marks of Mission express it, I seek 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. I will press Synod to ensure that the Church meets its commitments on Net Zero and on the ethical and responsible use of land and resources.



I hope you will consider giving me your first preference, or a high preference in this election. I offer experience of General Synod, a deep commitment to parish and diocesan life, a determination to work for justice and inclusion, and a willingness to engage constructively across difference.

Voting closes on 13th October 2026.

Thank you for taking the time to read my address. If you would like to speak with me or ask any questions, I would be delighted to hear from you.



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