



NATHAN OBOKOH

General Synod 2nd Term Nomination

I am an artist, a servant and a child of God

I have been serving at my church for around 20 years and in that time I have grown from a new Christian coming from a multi-faith and multi-culture background to serving widely at HTL, in the Diocese of Leicester, nationally, and internationally. I know the transforming power of God's word and desire everyone to join with God in His great story.

I really value discipleship and because I was discipled well, with mentors and friends, I have built a Kingdom business of my own directing my natural talents towards the mission of God, enabling me to minister to church and secular society. I do this through the arts, pioneering movements of creating with God both in the church and into secular society.

I do this from a foundation of gratitude giving me a deep, driving desire to share Him with others, especially those who don't yet know Him.

I do this because the arts; writing, music, film, fine art, etc. are powerful expressions of our humanity and act like yeast in society, creating ideas, influencing opinions and presenting a backdrop for grappling with life, a background framework that reaches across generations, especially in our current information and innovation rich age. And as Christians we know from experience, that when given the chance people can taste and see that God is good for themselves - so I dedicate myself to using all I have to present God to people in creative ways so they can taste, and see that He is good. This has led me to perform and minister to UK churches, businesses, Church of England groups and across Europe, online to the US and even at the last session of General Synod.

Perspective

My work gives me a unique perspective, as I seek to work across cultures, languages and ages, finding ways to minister God's presence using art that transforms. To do this I draw on my experience as youth children's and schools

worker at HTL, film at communications at the Diocese of Leicester, acting at the Curve theatre and HTL ministries, and the numerous mission trips to support missionaries and churches in Europe, and the Americas. This combined with my training in philosophy and psychology, my own genetic mix of Nigerian and Indian, and my family including Thai, Irish and English relatives really does affect how I view the makeup of the Kingdom of God and how different cultures, conflicting histories, peoples and wildly different individuals might become family together. This shows up in my work, and my service such as supporting the Intercultural Worshipping Communities project. The one thing we can unite around is Jesus, and wherever I go I am constantly amazed by the brilliance of God's word in revealing His character and nature to us, that we might emulate Him wherever we are called.

Real life

My life is messy. Working freelance and running a business creates a wonderful unpredictability to be navigated. I am a carer for my father whose health needs are complicated and changing, and I myself have had to navigate loss and chronic illness as many of us have experienced. I only say this because it is reality. Suffering is a part of our lives, and I seek and receive God's grace daily. Suffering hasn't blunted my love for Him, instead it enables me to represent the breadth of our city and speak from shared experience.

I am not a politician

But I have a lifetime of representing, from school councils as a child, NUS presidency and counsellor, to representing the Church internationally on mission and Leicester at the last General Synod. I have the track record, ability and ingenuity to continue to represent you well for a second time.

My focus for this session is to seek the vital and transformative value of God and his word to hold central in our work as an organisation and culture-shaping power in the nation and beyond.

The world is hungry for meaning, a Grand Narrative. Truth that pulls us out of political and philosophical weather systems that bring pressure to move and define us.

The world is thirsty for a solid place to stand.

A place from which to inspire, to move, to make sense of life in all its pain and joy.

To save lives.

That place is a person.

That person is Jesus.

nathan obokoh

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