

Candidate for General Synod

Rev. Joy Mawdesley

Associate Rector – Newbury St Nicolas and Speen St Mary

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I would like to offer myself to serve the Diocese of Oxford and the wider Church in standing for election to General Synod.

You will see from the details below that most of my life in the Church has in fact been spent as a lay person, but I have a lifetime of Anglican commitment, my father having been a parish priest before me. I also bring to the work of Synod over 25 years' experience in local authority Children and Families Social Work.

I became a Christian as a teenager during a mission week at my Church. I realise now that I grew up without an awareness of labels, I just knew that I wanted to follow Jesus and my youth leaders filled our heads and our hearts with knowledge of and love for God's Word as our guide. It was this that 30 years later was a key factor that led to me being ordained as I longed to open up Scripture and make it accessible for all.



I have worshipped in three different churches in the Diocese of Oxford over the past 27 years. Because of my experience in the local Church and now as a member of the clergy, if elected, I would seek to ensure that the issues affecting the local Church and the needs that it has would remain the key focus of Synod, so that it is supported and resourced for mission and ministry.

My time spent as a social worker brought me face to face with many areas relevant to Synod, such as understanding and working with diversity, an awareness of the poverty in our Diocese, what it is like for our congregations to live on the frontline in the workplace and experience of safeguarding practice.

I would be grateful for your support in the election (and if I am not your first-choice candidate, I would ask you to consider giving me your 2nd or 3rd vote).

Thank you.

Overview

Current post	Associate Rector, Newbury St Nicolas and Speen St Mary (since 2019)
Previously	Curate, Newbury St Nicolas and Speen St Mary (since 2016) Ordinand, Ripon College Cuddesdon (2014-16) As a lay person, Undergraduate Diploma at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford (2008-10)
Pre-ordination	Different roles as Social Worker and Manager in local authority social work (1990 – 2016), including Child Protection, working with Looked After Children, Training, Complaints Management, Fostering and Adoption
Family and Other	Married to Paul (Secondary School teacher, West Berkshire), two children, 20 and 22. I love our border terrier, making flapjack and Northumberland.

Recent Experience/Responsibilities

For the past five years since ordination I have immersed myself in parish life and taken on responsibility and oversight for some key areas of the life of the Benefice. These have included small group ministry, women's ministry, pastoral care, the progress of the Mission Action Plan, safeguarding, taking a lead for the sister church in the Benefice, taking services at a local girls' independent school, assemblies at our church school and line managing Children's Ministry staff. My priority has been the parish and Deanery and the wider church in the Newbury Area. I have also been part of the Diocesan Safeguarding Training Team since 2018.

Specific issues

- Safeguarding

Sadly, serious safeguarding matters continue to come to light in the life of the Church. They devastate the lives of those who have been victims and they belie all our words of and witness to the love of Christ. Having spent years working in the field of safeguarding, I long for the Church to be the best that it can be in this area. Being involved in the Safeguarding Training team has been a way of bringing my experiences together, seeking to enable the local Church to grapple with these issues and have the correct processes in place. Having delivered the Foundation training, I have just recently become involved in the new PtO Pathway. I would be interested in contributing to the learning across the national Church in this area.

- Lay Ministry

I have been involved in different kinds of lay ministry in the Diocese for over 20 years before ordination, and so I am passionate about developing and supporting lay ministry. Only my Incumbent's confidence in me enabled me to try things out and to grow (and to end up where I am now!). I would be really interested to be involved in these discussions. My own experience suggests that clergy/lay partnerships that work well are a powerful combination and I consider lay ministry key for the future growth and mission of the Church, but also a factor in clergy wellbeing, as ministry is shared.

- Human Identity and Sexuality

It is high time that the local Church has the opportunity to wrestle with issues of human identity and sexuality and I welcome the Living in Love and Faith resources that will enable this to happen. I am part of a team in my own context that will lead the LLF course and have attended the Diocesan facilitator briefing. I see the priorities as being listening to each other, listening to our Anglican traditions and most significantly, listening to God's Word as our guide and authority in all things.

- Clergy Discipline Measure

If elected, I would be keen to contribute to the work around improving the CDM process. I worked as a Complaints and Resolutions Manager in social work, managing a process that was enshrined in legislation. I was able to make sure that legal requirements were met as far as investigating complaints was concerned, but also introduced restorative practice into complaints management such that resolution occurred that supported both parties.

Nominated by

Revd Canon Mark Bennet, Team Rector, Thatcham Team Ministry

Seconded by

Revd Keith Dunnett, Vicar, Christ Church, North Abingdon