

Election for lay representatives for the General Synod of the Church of England 2026

Blackburn Diocese

Stephen Boyall



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Please contact me whenever you like about any issue you'd like to talk about.

Dear Elector,

I am writing to ask for your number 1 preference vote as I seek re-election to General Synod.

My name is **Stephen Boyall**. I am 39 years old and have been married to Lucy for 15 years. Since my last election address for election to General Synod we have been wonderfully blessed with another two children to add to our first three children

I have served on General Synod for the past 11 having served two terms now since 2015. I have enjoyed my time on General Synod and I've attended each of the sessions in person except the November 2023 sessions where I engaged online as my wife and I had just expanded our family through adoption in the August a few months earlier. And it was too soon to have left everyone for 2 nights.

It's a privilege to serve on General Synod, having the opportunity to listen to debates and conversations and have input into Synod formally through speeches and, more informally, over tea, coffee and in small group work.

Over the next 5 years there is much to be done. There are plenty of issues to be tackled and worked through under God: -

- Church unity – and how we seek to hold the church together.
- Safeguarding and ensuring the Church of England is a place where all can hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- a financial crisis for the dioceses, Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners, not to mention parishes with the blessings and challenges of historic buildings
- Reducing clergy numbers and declining attendances.
- Leadership and governance.

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I do not pretend I have all the answers, but I would seek to continue to be a constructive and a helpful presence at Synod to mean that the Church of England flourishes and to help safeguard the parish system. We need a Christian presence in every community, and I would want to preserve and support that in whatever way I can. Supporting and increasing the numbers of vicars serving in our communities is crucial for a Christian presence in every community to be a reality.

I work for United Utilities as part of the training team. I train staff on wastewater treatment and biosolids treatment and recycling back into the environment. I really enjoy my job as it enables me to help those working in United Utilities to run our treatment plants in the most environmentally friendly and beneficial way for our waterways.

I've also recently been elected a parent governor at my eldest daughters Church of England secondary school. This is something that I have enjoyed being part of the team of governors impacting and furthering the school's aims - to nurture everyone's God given gifts so that God's light may shine through Christ like service. I'd love to be able to bring this new experience to bear as General Synod potentially debates how we make the most of this mission field our church schools are to share the good news of Jesus.

I love the Lord Jesus, and I want to see him glorified and for the Church of England to be a place where everyone can have an opportunity to come to know about Jesus. I would like to ask you for your Number 1 vote, or other high preference vote as you feel able, so I can be elected to General Synod. I would like to be elected to General Synod so that, as a younger man with a family, I can serve the Church of England by helping it to address the issues faced by young families, while also thankfully caring for the faithful older generation and through the Gospel bringing as much glory to Jesus as possible. I think that this can be best done by the Church of England holding to the historic teachings of the church which I think the Bible clearly teaches, in everything we do as a denomination for the flourishing and good of the nation that desperately needs the good news of Jesus.

Please do consider giving me your number 1 preference vote.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen Boyall