

Nic Tall

Standing for the House of Laity of General Synod

Nominated by Jenny Humphreys (General Synod 2010 - 21)
Seconded by Helen Barnes (Lay Dean, Chew Magna)



I am 48, married with two teenage children and have lived in Somerset for 26 years. I love the county and feel called to serve the church through General Synod. I worship at St James church in Taunton (the one next to the County Cricket Ground), and am active at parish, deanery and diocesan level.

My working experience includes:

- Six years in diocesan administration, including running the synod department, work relating to clergy housing, pastoral reorganisation and setting up a diocesan website. I have an in depth understanding of the Church of England.
- Consultancy work for the charity Inclusive Church, helping the church nationally to be accessible for everyone.
- Project management for the Somerset Health Authority and Taunton Deane Borough Council, using good organisational skills to run local community services.
- Setting up and running two small online businesses.
- Being the main carer for my two children when they were young – the full on reality of family life!

I have been fully engaged with the church all my adult life, having become a Christian when I was eighteen. I know that being a Christian was something you have to live so took a step of faith, finding a way of life centred on Jesus and an everyday spirituality guided by the Spirit. While faith is a deeply personal experience, I have lived it as follows:

- Worshipping every week with my family. Seeing my children grow in faith and make their own commitment through confirmation as teenagers has been a great joy.
- Lay leadership, as a Reader since 2008, leading services, preaching and building up the local church, as well as helping some lovely village churches during vacancies.
- Outreach in the local community, establishing and running a parent and toddler group for seven years when my own children were small. During this time the number of parents coming to church with their children increased significantly.
- I am passionate about serving those in need and volunteer with Taunton Foodbank.
- During the Covid-19 lockdown I led a church project supporting vulnerable families from our church school.
- Exploring faith more deeply - I studied theology as a mature student and graduated with a first class degree from the University of Oxford.
- Serving on PCC, deanery synod, diocesan synod and the Vacancy in See Committee.

Don't forget to use your vote! Votes must be in by Friday 8th October

Nic Tall General Synod 2021

I feel called to serve on General Synod, as the Church of England faces important decisions about its future direction.

Mission and Growth

We can take heart from the signs of growth that need to be encouraged. My own church has seen steady growth over the last ten years, I want to see a living, faithful, growing church in every part of our country. But we have to be honest, the Church of England as a whole is facing difficulties and we should be realistic about the challenges. I back our excellent clergy working in partnership with the laity through the parish system to be the backbone of the C of E.

Greater Freedom

The best people to bring life to local churches are local people who understand their community. I want to see a church which gives people the confidence to try new things, where lay people have their talents nurtured and encouraged, and the weight of bureaucracy is kept to a minimum.

Inclusion

I believe in a church for everyone, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. We are all made in God's image, we are all invited to the Lord's table. I am fully supportive of women's ministry and equality for LGBT+ Christians, at all levels and in all roles in the church.

I have attended General Synod sessions in person at London and York and am fully aware of what General Synod involves. I am well briefed on the current issues – Living in Love and Faith, Clergy Discipline Measure, Resource Churches, Safeguarding and IICSA, and more.

I will leave the last word to Jenny Humphreys who has nominated me:

“I have known Nic for many years, he cares for Somerset and the church. As I step down from General Synod I have no hesitation in recommending him as a candidate to represent Bath & Wells.”
Jenny Humphreys (General Synod Member, 2010-21)

Service in the Community

I have seen how the church grows when it is there for its community, particularly for those in need. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted all sorts of inequalities in society, but also how the church can be Christ in the world during times of crisis.



Listening to Each Other

I love that the Church of England is a broad church. We have more that unites us than divides us, even though this places strains when we deal with difficult issues. I come from an open evangelical background and have worked well with many churches, whether they are large, small, rural, urban, middle of the road, anglo-catholic, liberal, charismatic or conservative. We are at our best when we listen honestly to each other, value one another and work together.

Thank you for reading my electoral statement, I hope you will give me your first preference vote. If you want to contact me about anything I would be very happy to hear from you.

Nic Tall

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