

# Paul Jones

## Candidate for General Synod

### Introduction

In essence, I am parish priest at All Saints, Babbacombe and am wholeheartedly committed to the Parochial system in all its glory! It seems to me that the Parish system is one of our unique selling points and we undermine and dilute it at our peril. I am also concerned about the latest central evangelism initiatives which seem to be heavily biased towards large suburban resource churches. Though I wish these Churches well and hope and pray they fulfil their objectives I do worry about a lack of emphasis concerning mission to inner city, market towns and rural areas and the development of a monochrome theology. I would want to see a more balanced and nuanced sense of mission to the whole country and a greater commitment to the parochial system and to investment in struggling communities. To me the key question is, "where would we find Jesus in our society?"



### Education

When I was first ordained, I would have been astounded that I should have been so involved in school's and yet that is how the Holy Spirit has guided and modded my ministry. Currently I am a Director of the St Christopher Multi Academy Trust, Chair of Governors at St Cuthbert Mayne (a joint Roman Catholic and Anglican Secondary School) as well as regularly conducting collective worship in my parish primary. I therefore have a vast and varied knowledge of educational matters and policy gained at the coal face and would want that experience to be brought to bear, should I be elected to General Synod

### Clergy Discipline Measure

The Clergy Discipline Measure needs urgent reform as I know from my own first hand experience of having been entangled in this process. It seems to me that this Measure does not help any of the parties involved, nor promote forgiveness, reconciliation or justice. Other organisations that I am involved in, such as school's and other public Bodies, have serviceable complaints and discipline procedures. Why, then, had the Church not already introduced a more equitable and equitable process? This is an issue, that if elected, I will take a direct and personal interest in, and for which I would advocate urgent reform.

### Living in Love and Faith

I welcome the discussion paper on Living in Love and Faith, and the opportunity for the Church to have an open, honest and respectful debate. As we need to grapple with these issues in a way which both honours our contemporary context and our received traditions.

## **Social Justice: sexism and racist and other areas of inequality**

The 'Me Too' and the 'Black Lives Matter' movement have brought to all our attention unequal and prejudiced attitudes and structures. As Christians, we should be aware of these forces in our country and seek reform, forgiveness and justice. Unfortunately, these are not the only discriminating forces in our society and the Church should be bringing a prophetic voice to bear concerning the treatment of those with disabilities or issues of inequality in such areas as education, housing or health, that blight many of our local communities. It is part of our mission to remind our society that we are all made in the image of God and that gives a dignity to us all.

## **Five Guiding Principles**

As a Catholic Anglican, I am grateful for the 'Five Guiding Principles' that have brought all parties together in mutual respect and helped us all to listen to one another. My hope is that this process of healing and mutual understanding will continue to bear fruit.

## **Liturgy & Finance**

My academic specialism is in Liturgy where I hold a Masters degree so I am going to want to contribute in an informed and thoughtful way in this area. As a qualified accountant, I would take a keen interest in financial matters.

**On a more personal note**, in my spare time I like to read, swim, try but fail to catch fish and grow weeds on my allotment.

## **Conclusion**

I hope you will vote for me as your first choice or alternatively consider giving me a high preference vote. More importantly may the Holy Spirit guide us, in all our endeavours.

## **Contacting me**

If you have any questions, then please email me via [Liberty.hall@me.com](mailto:Liberty.hall@me.com). Thank you.

## **Proposer**

### **Revd Nathan Kiyaga**

Rural Dean of Torbay & School Chaplain

*"What I have grown to appreciate of Fr Paul is his vulnerability which does not shy away from the struggles of our human nature and the pain we go through yet, maintaining a strong and firm hope in the risen Lord. He is involved in several aspects of the spiritual life of Torbay including as Chair of Governors for our Secondary School in Torbay (St Cuthbert Mayne School). Since his ascent to this role, he has brought energy and vision to a school that is growing exponentially and in the middle of several exciting changes. I propose him to the general synod with full confidence that he will be an asset to this role.*

## **Secunder**

Revd Fr David Waye

Vicar of St Peter's, Plymouth

*"I am very happy to nominate Fr Paul Jones to stand for election to the General Synod of the Church of England. His long experience of parish ministry, especially in the Diocese of Exeter, and his wider interests especially in the field of education and finance means that he will be able to address the issues which are facing this quinquennium of synod wisely and prudently".*