

Revd James Moore (51) - Candidate for House of Clergy

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Thank you for being willing to consider me for service on General Synod, as I seek to contribute to the flourishing of the Church of England through Synod's prayerful and legislative work.

About me...

I am married to Sarah, and we have two children; Joshua (21), enjoying a year in industry as part of his degree, and Olivia (18) who is about to begin university life. I am currently serving my curacy in the wonderful parishes of Fremington, Westleigh and Instow, on the North Devon coast, a position which brings me great joy every day.

Growing up in a Christian family in Devon, I learned the importance of prayer and Bible study from the example set by loving Christian parents, and was Baptised as a teenager. After school, I left home to train as a nurse in Bristol, where I began a hugely fulfilling career working in Emergency Departments and specialising in Expedition Medicine – providing medical care in remote and inhospitable places across the globe. In 2007 I left the NHS to start an independent healthcare business, a practice that continues to support individuals, companies and charities travelling or working overseas. Medical education featured prominently throughout my career, and I was responsible for the development and launch of two postgraduate medical degrees, inspiring medics to develop and employ skills in low-income countries.

Many people in midlife feel called to get a tattoo or buy a motorbike - but I felt God's unmistakable call into ministry. So, in 2021 I began exploring this calling and immediately knew that life for me and my family was about to change. Following discernment, I trained at St Mellitus College, Plymouth, serving as an ordinand first with St Matt's Exeter, and then St Andrew's Cullompton, before being ordained in 2025.

These two churches provided the experience of a wonderful breadth of Anglican worship, from traditional to charismatic evangelical styles, a perfect preparation for my curacy here in North Devon.

During my curacy, I have developed new forms of family-focused worship, helped develop a men's breakfast, and organised an ecumenical day of prayer and worship focusing on men's discipleship.

In everything I do, I am passionate about the growth of the church, a church expanding through people coming to love and follow Jesus, and Christians growing in their faith, discipleship and willingness to share the Gospel.

Things on my heart

Philippians 2:13 says '*For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure*', and I firmly believe God gives us a passion or longing to be involved in areas of his mission. Those who know me will happily testify to my relentless enthusiasm and capacity to get stuck in. Of the many things I feel passionate about, here are three I would consider particular priorities:

Education – England's first nationwide movement to provide education for every child in every parish was established in 1811 by the Church of England, particularly for those on the margins of society. As a former governor in a Church of England school, I believe the Church of England, with its network of church schools, has the most wonderful opportunity to help and support children who are not GCSE-shaped, and who are often on the margins, to achieve in new and exciting ways.

Ministry to men and boys – We live in a complicated, social-media-fuelled world in which a boy is now more likely to own a smartphone than to live with his father.¹ The negative effects of absent role models and a diminished sense of belonging are well documented, often linked with poor educational attainment. As Christians, we proclaim the love of God as Father, who gives hope, identity and life. I believe the church has a significant role in supporting men and boys, and I would encourage Synod to help churches develop effective ministry among them.

Evangelism – It is sometimes so hard to fathom how the church in Acts managed to grow exponentially as it did, when the mission of which we are part feels like climbing a one-in-four icy Devon road. Yet when a church commits to prayer and fasting, worship and the study of the Bible, God responds, setting our hearts on fire, and showing us how to be effective contributors to his work. I believe in these key missional tenets, and would like to encourage Synod to help parishes foster these activities.

Summary

Coming into full-time stipendiary work slightly later in life, I am blessed to be bringing the experience of careers in business, education and global healthcare. More importantly, however, I bring an unrelenting drive to see God's love permeate our society, finding the lost, fixing the broken, giving hope to the hopeless, and bringing people into a worshipful relationship with Jesus Christ.

If elected, I will seek to represent clergy across the breadth of our diocese, listening carefully to different traditions, contexts and concerns. I will communicate regularly with those I represent whilst working towards these goals.

I would be grateful if you would consider giving me your first or a high-preference vote. With your support, I will do my best to bring that same passion to Synod.

Thank you for your consideration.



¹ Centre for Social Justice, *Lost Boys* (2025), p. 7. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/bde5tx4b>