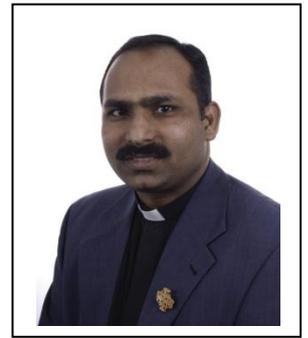


The Rev Javaid Iqbal

Presently I am Team Rector in the Aldenham, Radlett and Shenley Team Ministry in the deanery of St Albans. I have 18 years experience of parish ministry out of which the last 15 has been in England. I was originally accepted for ordination and trained in Pakistan after which I had further training at St John's College Nottingham. Since my ordination I have served in 4 parishes, two in the Church of Pakistan and two in the Church of England as well as being Director of Mission and Evangelism in the Diocese of Raiwind in the Church of Pakistan.



I value and embrace a breadth of varied traditions of churchmanship and I am comfortable with both modern catholic and evangelical traditions and everything in between. This flexibility stems from the wide variety of church traditions that I experienced in my formative years and ministry in varied contexts. So I feel that I will be able to represent varied views of our diocesan clergy in the General Synod during discussions on the important issues that face the Church of England and our parishes. I am aware of these big issues such as assisted dying, migrant crisis and same sex marriages as well as the challenge of mission to the changing British society so will be able engage with them.

The face of Britain is changing rapidly and church needs to move quickly to adapt to the situation. Britain is becoming increasingly multicultural but sadly the Church of England has not reacted quickly enough to represent our modern society. The need of the hour for the church of God is to be proactive rather than reactive. God is reflected in the rainbow colour of his people but that reflection and representation on the General Synod is lacking. In many of our churches the number of ethnic minority members is increasing but the number of clergy and representatives on our PCC, Diocesan and General Synod has not increased. This was highlighted in the report produced by the Bishop of Chelmsford and discussion at General Synod at its meeting in July 2015. Our diocese is a Presence and Engagement diocese within the Church of England so could play a leading role in shaping the Church of England and its future in multi-faith Britain through the General Synod. I believe I have the experience and expertise to represent the diocese on this important aspect of our church life.

The General Synod needs to hear the voices of people of all ages, backgrounds, traditions and with a wide range of experience and skills to be able to serve the breadth of the Church of England and I feel I am that person who is younger with different background and wide tradition, skills and experience. The multifarious contexts of the parishes and dioceses I have served in has enabled me to have a diverse experience which I really enjoy. I came to the Diocese of St Albans with an extensive experience of parish life in multi-faith and multi-cultural contexts, firstly in Pakistan and most recently in Leicester. My present parish is a Presence and Engagement parish with a large Jewish population. I am engaged in building relations with the Jewish Community through dialogue, and social action as well as working with Hertsmere Forum of Faith. Our diocese has large number of other faith communities in St Albans, Watford, Luton and Bedford and with my experience I could be the voice of those parishes and clergy.

In my previous diocese I served as the chair of the Diocesan Forum for Ethnic Minority Affairs and advisor to the Bishop on such issues from 2008 to 2013 as well as on Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council for 5 years. I also served for three years on the Vocations Working Group under the Archbishop's Council to raise the vocation to ordination among the ethnic minority members of Church of England. Presently I am a member of the Diocesan Race Equality Committee and also have been elected to represent St Albans Deanery on our Diocesan Synod. So I am involved at every level in our diocese from parish to diocesan synod which will enable me to have informed view on the diocesan thinking, needs and decisions.

I feel I will be able to make a difference in the outlook of the General Synod in making it to represent the rainbow people of God as well as to make a difference in the debates and discussions from a fresh and different view point. I offer a fresh and younger voice. I have a clear sense of commitment to follow Christ, which stems from being a Christian in the difficult situation in Pakistan, which has formed a sound foundation for my life, Christian faith and ministry. I am a very energetic and enthusiastic person who is always willing to serve in any way I can and therefore I prayerfully offer myself for election to represent you on General Synod. I hope you will also consider prayerfully and will be able to support me in the endeavour.

With all the best wishes yours in Christ

Rev Javaid Iqbal