

The Revd James Mustard

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Introduction

As Rector of East Barnet, I serve in one of the southern-most parishes of our diocese, in the heart of north-London suburbia and in one of the UK's most religiously diverse local authorities. A passionate supporter of parish ministry and our work through our schools, hospitals and chaplaincies, my ministry is rooted in the Word and sacraments, inspired by our baptism into one body, and I seek to encourage all members of the Body of Christ to flourish in the one Spirit.

This is my tenth year of ordained ministry. Before ordination, I worked as a musician and teacher (indeed my sense of vocation came through this work) and remain a keen supporter of music, the arts and education.

Ministry

Present appointments

- Rector of East Barnet (since 2012)
- Assistant Area Dean of Barnet
- Diocesan Advisory Committee (Diocesan Synod House of Clergy representative)

Previous appointments

- Assistant Priest, St Peter's Eaton Square (Diocese of London)
- Assistant Curate, St Peter Mancroft (Diocese of Norwich)
- Ordinand, Westcott House, Cambridge

Key issues

Inclusion

Inclusion and our inclusivity must remain high among the General Synod's priorities if the Church of England is to be effective in its Established ministry to the nation. I applaud the consecration of women as bishops, but the role of women in the Church could still be more prominent. Also, the role of women in other Anglican churches across the world, and their place in those societies, remains highly variable. So, if elected, I will be a strong advocate for women and their ministries.

The Bishop of Chelmsford recently stated "There is an unconscious bias in the Church of England's failure to ordain significant numbers of black and Asian people." This has a significant bearing upon our church's credibility across the nation, and suggests we are not wholly nurturing the discipleship of all our people. If elected, I will support work to address this bias.

This synod will respond to the Pilling Report on human sexuality (2013) and the shared conversations that have followed from it. Following its publication, the College of Bishops affirmed "the need to stand firmly against homophobia wherever and whenever it is to be found." (statement, 27 Jan 2014). If elected, I will work with the bishops to challenge homophobia in the church and society, and I support the Report's recommendation that parish clergy should be free to offer appropriate services to mark faithful same-sex relationships.

Education and Church Schools

The Chadwick Report (2012) states: “The Church of England clearly reaffirms that Church schools stand at the centre of its mission.” As a governor of my parish’s Church of England school, this report, and the Christianity Project that has followed from it, have given great focus to the shared mission of our schools and churches. I am part of a working group at Church House, “Engaging with Parish Schools,” that is developing training programs for clergy and teachers. If elected, I will encourage the synod to build upon this work.

Liturgy, Music and Mission

Most people’s first encounter with the Church of England is through its public worship, our central activity. Before and since ordination, I have had the privilege of working alongside and encouraging many artists and musicians, for whom the church is an inspiring resource. If elected, I will encourage and support the work of the Liturgical Commission, the Royal Schools of Church Music, the Royal College of Organists and our music colleges in their ministries, ensuring that clergy and musicians have the best possible training and resources to be leaders of public worship now and into the future.

Common Tenure

Common Tenure provides a framework for the encouragement of clergy in their ministries through review processes. I believe the General Synod must be attentive to the response of the clergy to these processes, to ensure it is a positive experience, and that our bishops and archdeacons offer appropriate support to the clergy.

Proposers:

Proposed: The Revd Canon Jo Loveridge, Vicar of All Saints Hertford

Seconded: The Revd Neil Kelly, Rector of Bushey

If you would like to discuss any of the above points, do please feel free to contact me at the addresses overleaf.

I do hope you will vote for me. If elected, it will be a privilege to represent you and be an advocate for our diocesan clergy in the General Synod.

James Mustard