

In Brief:

Current Post	Vicar of St Mary's Church, Redbourn (Since 2006) Rural Dean of Wheathampstead (2010-2015)	
Previously	Assistant Curate at St Mary Abbots, Kensington (2003-2006) Assistant Curate in Staines Parish (2000-2003) Ordinand – Ripon College Cuddesdon (1997-2000)	
Pre Ordination	Project Manager for a Construction Company in London	
Family	Married to Claire who is a Year 6 Teacher in a multi-cultural Luton school We have two daughters – Olivia (12) and Darcy (7)	

Current and Recent Experiences and Responsibilities

Rural Dean of Wheathampstead

Member of Diocesan Synod (until Summer 2015)

Member of the Diocesan Board of Patronage

Chairman of the Verulam House Fund Trust

Member of the National Executive Committee of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association (promoting relations between Anglican and Orthodox Churches)

Former Governor and Chair of Governors at Redbourn Junior School

Bishop of St Alban's Representative as Governor and Deputy Chair of Governors at St Margaret's School, Bushey

Event Coordinator for recent Archbishop of Canterbury's Visit to the Diocese (Business Breakfast)

Service Organiser for Celebrate 100 Launch Service in St Alban's Abbey – May 2014

Member of the Nikaeon Club – providing hospitality on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury to visiting overseas ecumenical dignitaries and guests

Trustee of two local Charities

Mentor to two new Incumbents in the Diocese

About me and my views:

I am not really the 'campaigning' type and usually prefer to live out my beliefs and convictions in quieter ways but the debates in the last session of the General Synod, particularly regarding Women Bishops, has led me to stand. It became clear to many of us that the strident voices in that debate opposing women being ordained Bishop were not typical of large parts of the Church of England. And so faced with a choice between 'put up' and 'step up' I offer myself for election.

I fully support the ministry - lay, licensed or ordained - of women and was privileged to train in a college where the numbers of men and women were almost equal. I have recently had the privilege of training a Curate who happened to be a woman.

I am passionate that the Church of England should further recover confidence in its role as the established church, speaking with clarity on social issues and matters of welfare and national concern. I am particularly troubled by the forthcoming debates on the Assisted Dying Bill being considered by Parliament and feel that, now more than ever, we need to ensure that the Christian values of the sanctity of human life and the protection of the vulnerable and needy are expressed clearly and unambiguously. The Church has an important role to play in the work of food banks, credit unions and counselling and befriending for those who suffer most in the current economic situation.

The debate on Human Sexuality will feature strongly in the forthcoming sessions of General Synod and I fervently hope that the Shared Conversations will lead the Church to find ways of honouring and celebrating all human beings, irrespective of their sexuality, with greater integrity and openness whilst recognising alternative views in this country and overseas.

I welcome the recent work of the Synod and the Liturgical Commission in considering the language and imagery of our worship and hope this will continue to improve our accessibility, ministry and mission without banality or losing a sense of the numinous and mystery of God in our worship.

In my role as Rural Dean and within the Parish I am fully committed to the sense that life-long study and learning are of paramount importance, and increasingly so for adults who have not experienced the Christian faith in their upbringing. I am proud to be a part of the first Local Ministry Development Team to be mandated in the Diocese, seeking to empower and celebrate the considerable gifts of that team and working collaboratively together.

It would be a privilege to serve you and this Diocese as a member of General Synod.

To the Voter:

I would be most grateful for your support in this election and for the opportunity to represent you on the General Synod. Even if I'm not your first choice candidate I would ask you to consider giving me your 2nd or 3rd vote please.

Thank you.

The Revd Will Gibbs
The Vicarage, 49 Church End
Redbourn, St Albans, HERTS AL3 7DU 01582 791 669 will@stmarysredbourn.org

Nominated by the Revd Richard Banham
Rector of Wheathampstead

Seconded by The Revd Jeanette Gosney
Diocese of St Albans Parish Development Officer