

Hello, my name is Anderson Wade but I'm known as AJ. I am looking to be elected to General Synod this year.



So, a bit about me. I'm 29 years old, originally from Montserrat (which is the Caribbean) but grew up in Leicester. I have been privileged to be involved in church ministry in the Church of England for several years now, both as a paid member of staff and as a volunteer. I'm currently working at a high school for boys in Leagrave which is in the diocese. I attend Christ Church Bedford & St John's with St Leonard's. In addition to this, I have been able to see different styles of churches within the Church of England, from more High church settings to more charismatic styles. I have also had the privilege of serving on the Deanery Synod for the Deanery of Bedford, as well as sitting on the Diocesan Council for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (DMEAC) for St Albans Dioceses.

I have had various experiences which I believe will make me a strong candidate for this position. Being involved in education and having been a youth minister for several years, I realise the importance of having young people involved in the life of the church. If we believe the Church of England needs to grow younger, I believe it starts with forming and developing groups for children and young people that are resourced for the long term. Therefore, I want to be a champion for this within General Synod. An example of me representing young people's views would be when the youth of one of my churches approached me about having a local Christian event for young people where they could meet and worship with other Christians and bring along their friends who weren't Christians yet. This led to working with other churches to host and run events that took place 5-6 times a year.

Being someone who comes from a black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background helps me to bring a different style, experience and understanding in my desire to draw people closer to God. I am able to relate to those who come from broken families, (as my own parents separated when I was 9 years old) and am able to help them see God as a loving parent. Being someone who is a foreigner and outsider, (I came to the United Kingdom when I was a child and had to adapt to a different culture), I have a passion and skill set for helping people see how the church can be home and family. I also have a desire to break down racial views about a priest who comes from a BAME background.

Though the From Lament to Action: Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce calls for urgent changes to the culture of the Church of England, I feel there is more that we can do and I want to help make those changes not just be in a document but actually become reality. I feel being on General Synod would help make this happen. This is where my experience of being part of DMEAC would make me an ideal candidate to help achieve this change

I want to be someone who brings change and breaks down people's negative or wrong views of the church. If elected to General Synod, I would ask and listen to different opinions on serious topics such as human sexuality, climate change and women in leadership within

the church. I realise we may not always agree but if we are willing to be open-minded and trust in God's leadership to help us come to a conclusion that has been reflected on in respect to God's word, that is the ultimate goal. I think it is highly important to help people see the church as a beacon of light in what can sometimes be or feel like dark times for local communities and the world.

I would love the opportunity to serve on General Synod. I have both the passion and hardworking nature to help benefit Synod.