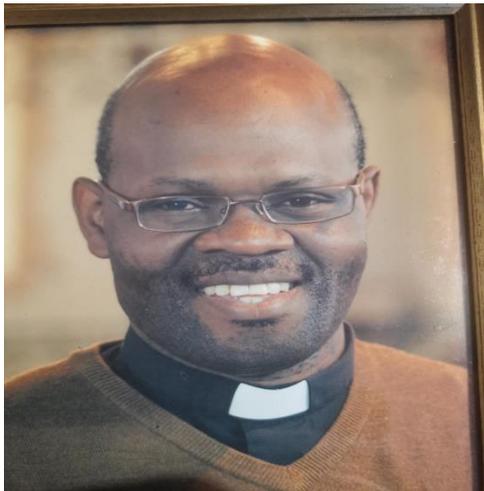


General Synod - Manifesto



I am currently the Vicar of St. Augustine of Canterbury Church in Luton. I was appointed Vicar in this parish in September 2017 after serving curacy in the Parish of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde, Rickmansworth. Prior to my ordained ministry I worked as Children's Social Worker in the London Borough of Greenwich and Hertfordshire County Council. I hold a Diploma in Social work and a BA in Applied Social Studies from the University of Luton, and Masters of Theology from the University of Chester. I am married to Ruth and we have two girls; Anna and Grace.

My focus in ministry has been to lead people of God in the mission of Jesus Christ by directing Good News towards every area of human need as well as responding to the problems created by human behaviour or activities. I am therefore keen to engage with issues of social diversities, economic variations and environmental protection in relation to faith and the mission of the Church. As someone who started ministry as a lay Evangelist in the Anglican Church of Tanzania and now an ordained Minister in the Church of England, I believe I have developed wide understanding of the Anglican Church and resilience to engage with difficult and complex issues that are emerging in the church today.

I am proactive in both religious and secular concerns. I have a passion for engaging in issues that values and celebrate our differences and diversities such as issues in human sexuality, gender, disability, race, Churchmanship, and protection of children and vulnerable adults. I have also taken keen interest in safeguarding God's creation through raising awareness of the climate change and campaigns on environmental conservation. My social work practice and priestly ministry have contributed to my formation and wealth of knowledge.

I am aware of the contemporary challenges to the Church. The challenges that call for review of various initiatives and practice approaches. The review involves exploration of practices that can help mitigate the contributing factors that lead people away from matters of faith and religion. My participation in the initial discussions of the planning for a vision for the Church of England in the 2020s encouraged me to want to be actively involved in the processes of developing various initiatives that will bring change and further the growth of the mission of the Church of England. The Partnership for World Mission Conference that I attended last year

also opened my eyes to a need for active participation in the life of the Church of England and link with the worldwide Church.

I have developed a good understanding of the legislative framework of the Church through participation in the Deanery and Diocesan Synods, and direct involvement with a Pastoral Scheme. I have been able to read and follow Church Representation Rules as required in the governance of the Church as well as in compliance with government policies.

I have developed skills that can help me adequately interpret and analyse reports. I am able to engage in constructive debates due to my open-minded approach and a respectful attitude to other people's opinion. I am also able to work collaboratively with others within time scales and priorities.

This exciting journey has enabled me to confront and embrace the realities, challenges and opportunities of life in general and more specifically of the life of the Church; including reviving her mission, maintaining of her resources, accepting her diversity and supporting her mixed ecology.

I have therefore decided to stand for a place at the General Synod because I believe that my experiences and current role in the life of the Church have given me insights that can help make a positive contribution. I am confident that I will be an effective representative and a contributor to the development of policies and ideas that can support progressive governance of the Church and also nurture our Christian heritage.

I have read various papers from the General Synod and followed various debates and have an insight as to how it is governed. I therefore believe that good administrative structures and extensive organisational networking with people who represents the diversity of the Church are essential if we want the Church to be relevant and effective. I would like to be part of that representation and network.

I believe that the opportunity to serve at the General Synod will give me a structured platform to present and debate concerns that might be hindering the ongoing growth of the Church. I will be able to join others in responding to challenges that the national Church and Anglican Communion are facing and also what a local church in a market towns like Luton is facing.

I am asking for your vote because I want to use my gifts and skills to contribute to the functions of the General Synod. I am confident that I will be active in the company of others to work towards building an inclusive and resourceful Church.

If elected, I will be joining others in their endeavour to formulate vision and hope for the future.

Thankyou

Rev. Jairo Omondi Nyaongo