

The Reverend Canon Kevin Goss SCP

Vicar, St Paul, Bedford

Proposed by:

The Reverend Richard Watson

Vicar, St Saviour, St Albans; St Albans Deanery

Seconded by:

The Reverend Atalie Gaines

Vicar, King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar; Barnet Deanery



I am seeking re-election to the General Synod, having demonstrated since 2015 a proven track record of working hard, speaking up, using my Synod vote wisely and engaging diligently with local deaneries.

Why vote for Kevin Goss?

- Because what you see is what you will get
- I remain determined to make a difference in ministry and in Synod
- I believe the Gospel calls us into renewal and change
- I will graciously say the things that are sometimes difficult to say
- I will continue to represent the whole diocese and all clergy, not just a part of it or a few

What will Kevin Goss stand for in the next Synod?

- **Mission and Evangelism** Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to our nation and influencing our society positively have to be the focus of the Church's energies at every level. The Church must reconnect with the communities it serves in positive engagement with those it too often alienates by building bridges rather than raising drawbridges.
- **An Inclusive Gospel** I believe that the biblical Gospel is essentially inclusive. I have worked hard in General Synod and in my own corners of the vineyard for a Church which is generous, welcoming, inclusive and open. A Church where all people are able to participate equally and fully in the membership and leadership of the Church, regardless of gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental health or disability. I continue to rejoice in the ministry of women as bishops, priests and deacons.
- **Living in Love and Faith (LLF)** The Gospel calls us to live with difference and I am hopeful that the LLF resources will assist the ongoing debate on human sexuality. As an Inclusive Church supported candidate, I am unequivocally committed to the full inclusion and equality of everyone within the Church. While disagreement is inevitable, division is not. I am a good listener and committed to working with others across the Synod and the Church to find creative ways to maintain unity in our common mission.
- **Vision and Strategy** While I welcome the Archbishop of York's yearning for a simpler, humbler, bolder Church that is Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped, and also new forms of church which are emerging under this banner, as a committed parish priest I will press for resources to be invested creatively in our parishes which continue to be the backbone of the Church's mission and ministry.
- **Clergy Discipline Measure and Remuneration** The current CDM has caused untold misery and is not fit for purpose. I will press for its replacement with a fairer process. Synod has recently reviewed Clergy Remuneration and I will work to keep this on the agenda.
- **Climate Emergency** This is the real issue of our times. The Church needs to lead in this area. In 2020 I voted for the Church of England to aim for the ambitious target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions for its operations by 2030. I will urge the Church Commissioners to use their leverage by virtue of their existing investments, with the aim of eventual disinvestment.

- **Anglican/Methodist Covenant.** In a speech to General Synod in 2019, I spoke passionately for Christian unity as well as the need to understand and respect the traditions of both churches, especially to value the historic, threefold ordained ministry as a gift to the whole Church.

What would Kevin Goss bring to the role?

- I have first hand experience of different Anglican traditions, including ministry in Evangelical and Charismatic churches; these continue to inform my long held modern Catholic theology and practice. I am a supporter of Affirming Catholicism, Inclusive Church and MOSAIC, and Rector of the St Albans Chapter of the Society of Catholic Priests.
- A love of God and a love of people
- Experience in understanding and listening to complex issues and concerns
- The ability to see others' points of view and respond with common sense, humanity, compassion and pragmatism
- Proven commitment and hard work to see real change, at parish level and beyond

What experience does Kevin Goss bring to the role?

- Member of the General Synod since 2015
- Ordained in 1992, I have over 24 years' ministerial experience in semi-rural, suburban and town centre parishes and been the training incumbent of four curates. I am presently Vicar of the town centre and multicultural parish of St Paul, Bedford, leading a ministry to the Civic life of Bedfordshire, an eclectic congregation and the second most deprived parish in the diocese.
- 5 years as Precentor of Canterbury Cathedral
- 10 years and 6 years in hospital and school chaplaincy, respectively
- 10 years as a School Governor
- 2 years as Rural Dean of Bishops Stortford
- 29 years as a member of Deanery Synods; 9 years as a member of St Albans Diocesan Synod
- Associate Tutor in Worship and Liturgy for ERMC and Lecturer for the SEITE Ordination Course
- Honorary Canon of St Albans from 2018

What is Kevin Goss really like?

Background, education and secular experience

- Born in Sussex and a professional musician (GRSM LRAM LTCL LGSM Royal Academy of Music)
- 20 years' experience as School Teacher (PGCE Cantab), examiner and adjudicator
- Training for Ordination on SDMTS (Southern Dioceses Ministerial Training Scheme)
- MA with distinction in Pastoral Liturgy (Heythrop College, University of London)
- 65 year-old priest with over 29 years' experience of ordained ministry
- Single, lives alone, and has many friends
- Loves a challenge: can often be found climbing a mountain, travelling or learning a new skill
- Ministry and Synod are serious stuff. But he has enough humour not to take *himself* too seriously!

I hope that you will be pleased to re-elect me to General Synod by giving me your first preference vote. It would be much appreciated. Thank you.

With best wishes,



If you would like to know more, then please do contact me by phone or email:

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