

Reverend Paul Davies



If elected to represent this diocese on General Synod I would emphasise my passionate commitment to the Anglican Church locally and globally.

I believe we need to both listen to the wisdom of broad Anglican traditions and respond creatively to the challenges that we encounter today. There is a place to listen to and still be shaped by the theology and praxis of post-war parish-based Anglican thinkers. There is a need to be creative and brave in becoming an intentionally relational church in essence.

I believe healthy parish churches have a thought-through balance of worship, fellowship and mission. Loving God, loving each other, and loving the world. The deficit in many churches today is loving each other. A renewed focus on fellowship, committing time to be with each other, praying for each other, and responding to the needs of our communities and the world together, will be transformative for the local church.

I am currently a part-time Priest-in-Charge in Queen's Park, Bedford. This is a richly diverse parish ethnically, culturally and in faith allegiance with many social needs.

I am also part-time Church Growth Officer for the Bedford Archdeaconry, which gives me important insights into the realities, positives, and those more challenging, in parish life in very varied contexts and from different church traditions. I see the role of the diocese to encourage all our parish churches to grow and flourish and seek the Kingdom of God.

Previously I ministered in Qatar in the Gulf to a richly diverse Anglican (and wider) community, with many Anglicans from Africa and Asia, as well as ex-pats. I built links with Anglican leaders in many of these countries, in particular East Africa, to help respond to the unjust labour conditions of migrant workers from their countries working in the Gulf.

I have continued my commitment to the global Anglican Church through developing links with the church in the Caribbean and members of our congregations with links there.

There is much for us to learn from the Anglican Communion and this viewpoint needs to be heard at General Synod.

I have over 30 years of parish experience in London, the Potteries, as well as abroad and my current ministry in St Albans diocese. I feel this gives me a valuable richness of understanding the Anglican parish set-up and the need to ensure its renewed impact in every community in the country.

If you vote for me, I will endeavour to speak up for parish churches and the renewal of the local church, and to promote the importance of mutually strong and loving relationships within local parish life and in the global Anglican Communion.