

THE REV'D DR. ABBIE WALSH

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ABOUT ME

Formerly an inner-city GP, I was ordained as a priest in 2019 and served my curacy in the Central Wolverhampton team. I have been in my current post as Rector since 2022. My other roles include Assistant Rural Dean of Lichfield, Vocations Advisor, member of the Property Management Group and Diocesan Synod representative. I am also a member of the Diocesan Green Team and Lichfield Cathedral's Environment Committee. I am passionate about mission in schools, creation care, collaborative working and encouraging lay and ordained vocation.

SUPPORTING CLERGY TO THRIVE

If I were elected to General Synod I would advocate for clergy wellbeing. I love being a parish priest and I intend to keep loving it for another 25 years, if God wills it! But, at times that love feels quite fragile, and it can seem hard to do a good job of being a parish priest.

Clergy need more opportunities for support and reflective practice, more emphasis on collaboration, and relief from some of the administrative burdens we bear, so that we can truly thrive and be the priests we were called to be.

Lots of us worry about our personal finances. I would advocate for a more generous stipend that increases in line with the cost of living, and firm assurances about our pensions and affordable housing options in retirement.

CREATION CARE

I believe that creation care is an essential part of Christian ministry and a focus for unity both within the Church and in building collaborative relationships with people and groups outside the Church, particularly young people and schools.

If I were elected to General Synod I would advocate for bold action towards our goal of Net Zero Carbon by 2030, with support for Churches to take action, and to courageously and creatively use our Churchyards and Glebe Land to foster biodiversity.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

I believe that the Church can't really be Christ's body on earth unless we truly welcome and value all of God's children in Church and in the world. I would support any action at General Synod to tackle racism, sexism, homophobia and all discrimination and would call for repentance and honesty about our past failures and real culture change, especially regarding our failure to prevent abuse and our failure to support and believe survivors. I want us to work together to make sure our Churches really are safe and welcoming communities for all.

I am affirming of LGBT+ people, their relationships and of supporting LGBT+ people in their vocation. I support the direction of travel towards using Prayers of Love and Faith in standalone services and ultimately towards equal marriage.

Although agreement between us sometimes feels far off, I am committed to unity and collaboration with others. I enjoy and value my professional relationships and friendships with those with really different views and traditions to my own. If I were elected to General Synod I would try to hold myself to the highest standard of compassion and vulnerability in discussions, and of prayer and careful consideration in voting at all times.

NOMINATED BY:

The Rev'd Richard Clarkson
Rector of Kinver and Enville

The Rev'd Anne Martin
Interim Minister of the Church of the
Epiphany, Oxley

PLEASE CONSIDER VOTING FOR ME BY FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY!