

Revd Dr Christopher Landau

Public Preacher in the Diocese of Lichfield & Director of ReSource

The nature of my role means I visit many parishes both within the diocese and further afield each year, and I believe that the particular perspective I have on the life of the Church would be a valuable addition to General Synod. Here are six key areas of concern and commitment for me:

Bringing the needs of 'ordinary' parish churches centre stage

In my role with ReSource I constantly hear from churches, particularly those in multi-parish benefices, which feel that too many national initiatives don't take their reality seriously enough. I would love to see the Synod commit to investment in the renewal of 'ordinary' parish churches. The last decade or so has seen substantial investment in flagship urban projects, but I believe that support for typical Anglican parishes should also be a priority, taking seriously the particular challenges they face.

Creating safeguarding structures that are fit for purpose

I would support new independent oversight of safeguarding which understands the unique nature of the church as a community of faith, putting the needs of victims at its heart.

Seeking unity rather than structural division on LLF

Given my published work on disagreement among Christians, I was a consultant to an earlier phase of the LLF process. I worry that too much energy is being focussed on potential structural division in the church, with some proposals making little sense given the theological diversity within many multi-parish benefices. I would prefer to see agreement on a way forward which welcomes all and avoids structural division in our church. I remain committed to the church's existing teaching on marriage.

Attending to clergy wellbeing

The statistics concerning mental illness and/or financial difficulties among clergy are stark, and I believe the Synod has a role in ensuring a better and fairer national settlement for clergy.

Responding to the drop in vocations to ordained ministry

I am not surprised by this drop, but there is a pressing need to analyse its causes. I believe residential training for ordination is a valuable pathway for some, which urgently needs fairer funding.

Enabling better church communication

I would like to see a review of how the national Church communicates: differentiating more effectively between communication with clergy and lay leaders, with the existing faithful, and in missional communication to the wider nation.



It is difficult to put me in an Anglican 'box' in terms of church background or tradition, but here are a few key parts of the story so far...!

- I grew up in Herefordshire and was an altar server and choir member in my parish church (in Ross-on-Wye), and a local village church organist.
- I studied Theology (BA and MPhil) at Trinity College Cambridge, where I was a choral scholar, immersed in the Anglican choral tradition.
- After university I worked as a BBC journalist, latterly as the Religious Affairs Correspondent for the World Service. During these years I spent many hours at General Synod, but in the press gallery! My faith came alive at a church which had received a 'graft' from Holy Trinity Brompton.
- I trained residentially for ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon.
- My curacy was in two inner-London parishes. During this time I finished my DPhil through Oxford University on disagreement among Christians.
- I was a chaplain to postgraduate students in Oxford, based at St Aldates Church, while also an hon. chaplain at Christ Church Cathedral.
- Since 2021 I have been based in the Diocese of Lichfield as Director of ReSource, with a 'Public Preacher' license throughout the diocese.
- I was delighted that the Unity Course - based on my book, 'Loving Disagreement' - was a diocesan Lent course in 2023. It was an honour to be part of the chaplaincy team for the diocesan conference in 2024.
- I live in Telford with my wife and three children, and we worship at Telford Minster (the closest place of Anglican worship to our home).