

Candidate for the House of Laity, General Synod — Diocese of Lichfield

David Chetta

I am standing for election to the General Synod because I believe deeply in the mission, heritage, and future of the Church of England. My family and I worship at St George's, Frankwell, Shrewsbury where we have both found renewed faith, community, and a growing congregation across all age groups. As an active member of the PCC, I am currently involved in the refurbishment of our church building and in strengthening our parish life.



I believe the Church of England's priorities should be:

1. Expanding worship and strengthening parish life across all dioceses
2. Encouraging confident, faithful evangelism rooted in the gospel
3. Being a visible church with an active presence in society
4. Caring for God's creation through sustainable maintenance and management of our estates and resources

Across many parishes, attendance has declined, and this is a cause of sadness for us all. Yet in our own church we have witnessed a quiet revival with a renewed joy in worship, a return to true congregational community with a sense of belonging that draws people in from the noise and confusion of modern life. I want to help nurture this revival across the wider Church, turning quiet growth into confident, Spirit-filled renewal.



I am offering myself for Synod because many in our congregations share concerns about the direction and confidence of our Anglican witness. I believe I can represent these views with humility, clarity, and commitment. My professional background as a consultant engineer specialising in hospital ventilation and heritage building refurbishment gives me practical insight into the environmental, energy, and maintenance challenges facing our churches.

I would like to contribute to discussions on sustainable heating and carbon reduction (such as bespoke solar shingles which can be made to look like existing slates) and carefully considered rewilding opportunities.

I would also like to encourage discussion on the future use of church land such as the opportunity for community-based food growing and mission-focused allotments which would support positive wellbeing and connection in local communities whilst reducing the cost of living.

I am 47, married to Michelle, 41, and together we have a blended family with three young children from our marriage and one teenager from Michelle's previous relationship. Our four children are aged from 16 years to under 6 months; one of whom has autism and requires additional support.

We believe that we should all care for the planet that God has provided for us to live in. We live on the Welsh border where we are developing a smallholding with a market garden, orchard, and conservation areas with meadow land and native trees, all based on permaculture and agroforestry principles.

I was a choirboy at St Matthews, Criftins (near Ellesmere) and attended Sunday school at St Mary's, Market Drayton. We feel that we are very much part of a quiet revival of church attendance and we like to instil this joy wherever we are; we have abandoned many past sins and would like to share this love that Jesus provides for all: that all are welcome and that newcomers should feel changed by the Holy Spirit. Our faith was rekindled from our own childhood attendance when we brought our daughters for baptism. Since then, we have become committed members of St George's, have both been recently Confirmed and are very active in parish life.



Debate is the lifeblood of the Church, and I would welcome hearing the views of all members of the diocese. If elected, I will represent Lichfield with humility and openness, ensuring that concerns raised with me are brought faithfully to Synod.

I am grateful to my proposer, **Katriona Ainslee Wade**, and seconder, **Ian Francis Peake**, both members of Shrewsbury and Wrekin Deanery Synod.

Thank you for reading this address. If you feel able to support me, I would be honoured to receive your highest preference vote.

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