

Revd Matt Mason - Candidate for the House of Clergy Diocese of Lichfield — General Synod Elections 2026

Who I am

I am the recently appointed Vicar of St Peter's, Little Aston, having moved into the Diocese of Lichfield with my wife, Beth, and our three daughters.

I served my curacy in Birmingham Diocese across contrasting contexts: a Gas Street church revitalisation on an outer estate, a traditional suburban parish, a civic town-centre church and a smaller parish shaped by a more catholic spirituality. This gave me practical insight into the opportunities and pressures facing different kinds of parish, and taught me to value the breadth of the Church of England.

I am a member of the Evangelical Alliance and the New Wine Network. My roots are charismatic and evangelical, but my ministry has been deepened by sacramental, liturgical and contemplative traditions I have been called to serve in.

I hold a historically Christian understanding of the doctrine of marriage and human sexuality, and would describe myself as generously orthodox: clear in conviction, committed to listening and seeking unity with all in a way that demonstrates the love of Christ.

Before ordination, I spent eleven years as an engineer and Director of Operations, running a Midlands-based manufacturing company. I hope this experience would enable me to contribute practically to Synod, in the areas of strategy, finance, governance and implementation, while keeping sight of the people and communities affected by national decisions.

Why Me?

Renewing the parish

I believe deeply in the parish system and want to see it renewed rather than allowed to drift into managed decline.

The parish embodies the Church of England's commitment to every place and every person, not only those who attend. Yet many parishes are being asked to carry more of this responsibility, in rapidly changing contexts, with fewer clergy, volunteers and resources.

I do not believe that parish renewal will come from one national model, but through attention to local context and a willingness to learn from what is already working. I would support practical approaches that strengthen parish ministry reduce avoidable bureaucracy, encourage collaboration and connect financial and structural decisions with the reality of parish life.

If elected, I would use the following question as a lens through which to view proposals and vote: will this help local parish churches to thrive: To worship God, nurture disciples, serve their communities and sustain healthy ministry?

Removing barriers

As someone with dyslexia and ADHD, I am passionate about making the Church more accessible to people who are neurodivergent or have disabilities or learning differences. Accessibility in church is not so much about restrictive buildings; but about restrictive thinking. I would bring personal experience and practical attention to these issues, asking how Synod's policies and processes can become more accessible and how good practice can be shared. Removing barriers is part of enabling the Church to be more faithful, fruitful and equipped for mission.

Releasing gifts

One of the greatest privileges of ministry is seeing people discover their gifts and grow in confidence as they use them to serve the Lord. I would ask whether new initiatives genuinely equip and release the church for mission or simply add expectations to people who are already stretched. Our structures and resources should release the gifts of the whole body of Christ and help the Church remain true to its purpose in every parish.

Why Now?

I believe I may be called to serve the wider Church through General Synod. Vocation is discerned with others, and so I am standing in order to test that call well with the clergy of our diocese.

I bring three perspectives together that may be valuable in Synod: the experience of a parish priest, the breadth gained from serving in different contexts and practical skills developed through leadership in industry. If elected, I would listen carefully, represent clergy faithfully, contribute honestly to debate, examine proposals diligently and communicate clearly about Synod's work.

I would bring my convictions while working constructively across the breadth of the Church, seeking wise and workable decisions that strengthen parish ministry.

I do not claim to have all the answers. I simply want to offer my experience, perspective and energy in the service of Christ and his Church. If that resonates with you, I would be grateful for your vote.

Revd. Matt Mason

Vicar of St Peter's, Little Aston

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