

Nnaeto Onwuzurumba

Parish / Benefice: St Andrew's Sneyd Green, Stoke on Trent



I am the husband of Vanessa and dad to an energetic toddler, Zikora. We have lived in Sneyd Green for nearly seven years now. I serve as a reader/li-

censed lay minister helping to cover with the preaching and leading team while in vacancy. I am a member of the PCC and the deanery synod. I have been a lay canon and member of the College of Canons of Lichfield Cathedral since 2022. Within the diocese, I sit on the Vacancy in See Committee, the Racial justice and Inclusion Task Group and the Feeding our Faith Board. I am also a trustee with Sanctus St. Mark's CIC.

My initial academic and professional background was in law, mediation and conflict studies. However, I have worked in early years and adult education, secondary school teaching and integrative counselling. Currently, I am employed full time in the senior leadership team of YMCA North Staffordshire as head of mission, a Christian

charity that offers holistic support for the flourishing of young people, families and communities in Stoke on Trent. My role sits at the intersection of Christian conviction and practical care for people in real need. I have a vocation in pastoral care/ chaplaincy in the church and the community.

My journey has been shaped entirely by the faith I was privileged to receive, growing up in a Christian family in an Anglican Church on the campus of University of Nigeria. The Lord used various gospel workers and church community to nurture and mentor me with gospel-centred convictions that I continue to hold fast today in life and ministry,

I am standing for election to the House of Laity because I believe the General Synod needs more voices shaped by both deep faith and daily, on-the-ground missional focus.



Nnaeto Onwuzurumba — continued

The Church of England stands at a significant moment. I want to see a Synod that:

- Continues to steward the historic, biblical faith handed down to us, while engaging honestly and pastorally with the questions our culture is putting to the church today especially as we witness a resurging curiosity for faith among children, young people and wider society.
- Puts mission and evangelism first. A church that is inward-looking will not survive; a church that is confident in the gospel and generous towards its neighbours with the love and hope of Christ will. My work with the YMCA has shown me what that looks like in practice, among people the institutional church sometimes struggles to reach.

- Takes safeguarding seriously as a matter of ongoing culture, not just policy on paper — and holds the Church accountable for the wellbeing of the vulnerable in the community, and both over-stretched lay and ordained ministers who care deeply.
- Does not lose sight of problem of poverty, division and mistrust in society, mental health challenges and the urgency of courageous gospel shaped social action to serve people and communities on the margins. Synod's national debates can feel distant from parish life; I want to advocate for young people by keeping the realities I see daily at the YMCA in front as the Church wrestles with these conversations nationally while welcoming the missional gifts of sisters and brothers from the global church.

I offer myself for this role prayerfully and with a clear sense that Synod membership is about service. If elected, I commit to representing the whole diocese — not only those who share every one of my views — with integrity, availability, and a readiness to listen as much as to speak.



With friends at YMCA North Staffordshire

Proposer

Amanda Robbie, Lay Chair of Lichfield Diocesan Synod.

Seconder

Linda Robinson, St Andrew's Sneyd Green Deanery Synod representative.

Contact

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