

Dear friends,

For those of you whom I haven't met yet, I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. I live in Littlemoor, Weymouth with my family. I am married to Georgie, who is a Debt Coach with Christians Against Poverty, and Associate Warden of LLMs. We have two boys, both of whom are now (scarily!) of secondary school age. I am Team Rector of the Weymouth Ridgeway Team, which includes Low Income (LINC), affluent suburban, and rural parishes- plenty of joys and challenges. Weymouth is a great place to live, and we make the most of being here. I've ministered in the diocese for over twelve years and spent most of my childhood growing up in Wilts and Dorset. It's home and I love to be able to call it so.



It's been a real privilege to represent us as clergy and as a diocese at General Synod. I wasn't expecting to enjoy it, but I did. I also found that I was able to "bring something to the table", and so I am offering myself for election again.

I would warmly recommend James for General Synod. He brings valuable experience of ministry within LINC parishes and a genuine concern for low-income parishes and clergy wellbeing. He is an eloquent, thoughtful and considered voice, with an ability to listen to and hold together differing views and theologies. I believe he would be a valuable voice for the Diocese on General Synod.

- Rev Christine Brooks, Rector, St Philip's Church, West Howe

There are two main areas where I believe I have something to contribute:

The first is championing our LINC (Low Income communities). I've worked in these parishes for my entire ministry, and I live and minister in one now. I am also deeply aware that most of us minister in contexts where poverty exists alongside affluence. I believe it is vital that all our parishes have a place at the table, and that those amongst us experiencing poverty are supported.

This led me to propose a motion at the May 2026 Diocesan Synod, that highlighted the challenges of ministry in LINC parishes. It also asked the diocese to publicly commit to a deployment strategy that responded to these needs. Alongside this I was pleased to support relevant items in General Synod, including Rev Alex Frost's motion on encouraging/supporting working-class vocations, and a motion on reviewing the limited access to national LINC funding.

With the cost-of-living crisis ongoing and economic inequality growing, championing our lower income communities continues to be urgent. I believe that if we do not do so, we are failing in our vocation as Christians and as a national church. I want to speak up for people and parishes like the ones I serve; I will be seeking to ensure equitable and sustainable support for those on the economic

margins. My experience over several years of working with and supporting refugees gives additional insight. I'm sure we want Jesus to be made known in every context.

Secondly, representing us all. Synod can be intensely political. We all come from "somewhere" - I'm an evangelical with a liturgical/cathedral background and catholic formation- but we don't have to be in silos. Over my time on Synod, I have sought to build bridges and reach out to people with different perspectives to me. This engagement didn't necessarily change my mind on

substantive issues, but it has led me to change my approach. I began to learn how I might represent us all better, considering our needs, experiences and desires across the breadth of the diocese. I hope that all those who have been in touch during my tenure have felt heard and taken seriously, whatever their issue or viewpoint.

I think this disposition will be essential for the good of the church as we navigate tricky issues, like the follow-up to LLF. My concern is that voices that seek to "win" may prevail. I am standing for dialogue and constructive approaches to dealing with disagreement.

General Synod gives us as a diocese representation at national level. I believe I have, and can, represent the clergy and wider diocese in all our breadth- geographical, social and theological. I hope that my aspiration to stand up for our least affluent and to be a voice for all resonates. I would ask for your first preference vote, and if you feel unable to give that, your second/third/fourth or whatever support you can give.

I am really happy to answer any questions you may have and look forwards to exploring them further at the upcoming hustings.

James is approachable, dependable, and dedicated. I have real confidence in his convictions and his ability to listen well, engage constructively, and speak up for others - particularly those in LINC parishes. I think he would be an excellent representative for clergy and more widely for parishes across the diocese.
*- Rev Jake Eggertsen, Rector, St James' Church
Trowbridge and Rural Dean, Bradford Deanery*

Relevant roles held past and present:

General Synod Rep 2025/26; Chaplain to Army (Reserve) 2023-present; Assistant Rural Dean/Acting Rural Dean, Weymouth and Portland 2017-24; Training Supervisor for ordinand and LLM 2021-present; Chair, Portland Resilience Group (Co-ordinating the Island's response to Covid) 2020; Mayor's Chaplain, Portland; Diocesan Synod Rep for Weymouth and Portland Deanery.