

# Ross Meikle (he/him)

*Let's be a church that doesn't kill our own*

**Age:** 31

**Sexual Orientation:** Gay

**Marital Status:** Single

## **Around the Diocese:**

Vicar of Reading St Luke's with St Bartholomew's

Former Curate of the Benefice of Witney

LGBTI+ Chaplain

Diocesan Synod Representative: 2017-2020, 2021-present

Producer of Church at Home



**Proposed:** Philippa White, Precentor and School Chaplain at Christchurch Cathedral

**Seconded:** Philip Hobday, Vicar at Earley, St Peter's

Peace be with you.

I am one of the younger candidates and I have a breadth of experience in the Church of England, and beyond. If elected, I will shape a church that I can serve with dignity and integrity for what I hope will be many years of Anglican ministry.

## **Parish Passion (#SaveTheParish)**

I love the parish system; we are naturally inclusive, providing a spiritual home for all in the country (as long as we remember that they are indeed welcome). I'm concerned about funds funnelled into middle-management models. Let's pour funds into providing poor, rural, and multi-church parishes with administrators to support the work of the priests, like the Acts 6 deacons. Read verse 7 for the outcome of a grass-roots approach. Bad administrative expectations kill the mission of Christ; let's be a church that doesn't kill our own.

## **Valuing Vocation**

I have experience of the encouraging vocations, from work with Ministry Division when discerning my own call, to leading Personal Discipleship Plans with laity in my curacy. In my new roles as incumbent and chaplain (both University and College), I want the routes to following God's call to be open to all. Also, I am relatively fresh from a 'golden curacy', but I have heard too many stories from peers whose curacies left them feeling isolated, undervalued, and, sometimes, bullied. I want to ensure that the spark of vocation is safeguarded throughout priestly formation. Bad experiences in the discernment and training processes kill vocation; let's be a church that doesn't kill our own.

## **Inclusive Church (#InclusiveOxford)**

I was most moved by what +Steven said at a Diocesan Synod about how Jesus takes a small child from the edge and places them in the centre. To me, this is Christ-like inclusivity: to bring those on the margins to the centre. This applies to poverty, race, disability and neurodiversity as well as gender identity and sexuality. How we treat any one of the individuals within these groups is how we treat them all. I serve as an LGBTI+ Chaplain, and I have listened to laity and clergy from different church traditions on theology, fears, and experiences of church in relationship to gender identity and sexuality. I am uniquely positioned to speak into the LLF conversations over the coming years. Bad theology kills people – literally – so let's be a church that doesn't kill our own.

I will happily answer any questions you have about my theology, approaches, and opinions to subjects both listed above or not.

However, I'd like to use this second page with a poem-prayer by Roger Spiller that came into my life during my curacy. At an increasingly dark and divided time in the politics of the world, it describes the church that I hope the General Synod will shape. With your vote, I could be there to contribute to a healthy, vibrant, and welcoming church for all who seek Christ. Thank you for your time, and God bless you in your ministry.

**Lord, you call us to be storytellers;**

planting your explosive news into our defended lives;  
locating us in the script of your human history.

**You call us to be trail-blazers:**

living in your future that we receive only as gift;  
subverting the fixed, fated world of low horizons.

**You call us to be weavers:**

tracing, stretching, connecting the knotted threads;  
gathering up. unravelling, disconnected lives.

**You call us to be fools for Christ's sake:**

bearing life's absurdities and incongruities;  
puncturing our seriousness and grandiosity.

**You call us to be hosts:**

welcome of the sacred, intimate, transfiguring;  
lavish celebrants of our communities and homecomings.

**You call us to be poets:**

artists and illuminators of inner space:  
naming, invoking, heralding your ineffable presence.

**You call us to be gardeners:**

sowers, cultivators, nurturers of fragile lives;  
benefactors of your gratuitous harvest.

**You call us to be conductors:**

celebrating polyphony, coaxing symphony;  
orchestrating the praise of your inhabited creation.

**Lord, you lavish gifts on all whom you call.**

Strengthen and sustain us and all ministers of your church,  
that in the range and diversity of our vocation,  
we may be catalysts of your kingdom in the world.

Amen.

*Roger Spiller*