

SAM ALLBERRY

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I would like to offer myself to serve the Diocese of Oxford and the wider church in standing for election to General Synod. Would you consider giving me your FIRST PREFERENCE VOTE?

OVERVIEW

- Background: Grew up in Kent (as a 'man of Kent' and not a 'Kentish man', for those who know about such things).
- Current position: Associate Vicar of St Mary's, Maidenhead
- Previous position: Assistant Curate at St Ebbe's, Oxford (ordained 2005), where I oversaw the ministry to hundreds of undergraduates at the University of Oxford. This afforded frequent opportunities to help unchurched students engage with the message of Jesus.
- Pre-ordination I worked with the mission agency OMF International as a student worker, working alongside ministry teams in parts of SE Asia.

RECENT EXPERIENCE / RESPONSIBILITIES

- Advisor to the Church of Ireland Select Committee on Human Sexuality
- A founder and editor of LivingOut.org, helping the global church
- Author of four popular books: one on the Trinity, one on the resurrection, the bestseller *Is God Anti-Gay?* and most recently *James For You*
- Member of our Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee
- Regular speaker at a wide range of Christian conferences and conventions

PASSIONS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT SYNOD

MISSION AND EVANGELISM I have been involved in mission and evangelism in a wide variety of contexts. As we find ourselves increasingly in a post-Christian context, we have wonderful opportunities to reach people with the life-changing message of Jesus. For a vast number today the good news of Jesus has become unknown news. The Church of England remains well poised to bring the gospel to our nation. Believers need to be equipped, and churches released, to engage in our mission.

HUMAN SEXUALITY I have experienced same-sex attraction my whole adult life, and hope to bring to Synod the perspective of many like myself who are homosexual and celibate, and who have found the church to be a place of hope and flourishing. I have had the opportunity of teaching and consulting on this issue for a number of denominations, networks, theological colleges and churches around the world. I am looking forward to hearing all sides of the debate and contributing to this important conversation.

THE LOCAL CHURCH The Church of England is only as strong as its parish churches. These are God's engines of change in our world today. The work of our central institutions needs to be effective in supporting local growth rather than hindering it.

DISCIPLESHIP As both a pastor and author I have enjoyed helping believers of all ages and stages enter into wholehearted discipleship – to see how the gospel transforms every area of life. It is a privilege in Christian ministry to help believers to grow, to enjoy growing, and to help others grow. Our challenge today is to raise up not just disciples, but disciple-making disciples.

SINGLESNESS I am single myself, and aware of the many in our churches who are single for a whole host of reasons. I am passionate about helping the church be better equipped to receive and serve those who are single, and to create communities where long-term singles can flourish in community.