

# Diocese of Oxford, General Synod, 2015

## Election of Proctors in Convocation to represent the Diocese of Oxford in the General Synod



### The Rev'd Jonathan Beswick

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I have served in the Diocese of Oxford since 2008, as parish priest of St Barnabas, Jericho and St Thomas the Martyr, Oxford (since 2011). I am a member of the Standing Committee of the Oxford Deanery Synod, and have served on the Diocesan Deaf Working Group. I also represented the Bishop at the Oxford Bee Summit.

Prior to this, for six years, I was parish priest of two villages in rural Sussex, near Battle. I served my title in the Black Country, and two further curacies in Inner and Central London, which included chaplaincies to a hospice and an army barracks. My theology was in Cambridge (Westcott House and Jesus College) and before that I was a member of a religious community for five years, and a residential social worker with adults with learning disabilities for two years.

I have been a member of the Church of England all my life and grew up in Somerset, singing as a boy in the choir of my parish church.

I am married to Ann and have two sons at school. Interests include cricket, beekeeping, steam engines and pretty much anything with two or three wheels.

It has been a privilege to be a member of General Synod since February 2012 and, after three and a half years, I feel as though I am beginning to understand how it all works! I would be delighted to serve for another term, should you elect me, and thus hope you will consider giving me either your first-preference vote or a high-priority vote.

Overleaf I have listed some brief points that I hope will help you understand something of what I offer as a candidate. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Do please contact me if you have any questions.

With every good wish.

Jonathan Beswick

If elected, I will bring to my work as a Proctor in Convocation:

- A dedication to and love for the Church of England
- A desire to see the mission of the Church flourish in her proclamation of Christ, and in many different expressions
- Twenty years full-time experience of the varied realities of front-line parochial ministry, in city, town and country.
- A belief that parochial ministry is the best way for the Church of England to proclaim the love of God to the nation and to serve her people
- A desire to see the Church of England grow in confidence as she grapples with secular assumptions that are hostile to human flourishing
- A passion for the breadth of the Church: I am proud to have been part of the Synod that delivered the *Five Guiding Principles* in relation to women bishops
- A commitment to the *Reform and Renewal* agenda as long as it both strengthens the life of the parishes and helps people come to know Christ
- A commitment to a compassionate delivery of the traditional teaching of the church on marriage, hoping that our churches will be a place of welcome and healing for all who come through our doors
- A commitment to the sanctity of life from conception to natural death
- A particular love for the riches of the Book of Common Prayer
- A willingness to listen to and represent the concerns of my fellow clergy and to take the time to prepare well for the Synod sessions