

Personal Statement for Jennie Cummings-Knight, MA, PGCE, Accred. Mediator dob [REDACTED]

Application to stand for General Synod

27.08.26

(Edited slightly to include a little more information for clarity, 01.09.26, please add to application already sent).

Baptised (by full immersion) at Coombe Creek, Cornwall at age 13 and afterwards confirmed into the Church of England, I have been an active member since then.

For the last 13 years I have been a member of Northrepps Church, Cromer. I have served on Deanery and Diocesan synods and am in my fourth year as fellow Churchwarden with Janet Payne ([REDACTED] years of age).

Senior church leaders and others active in the Church of England have suggested that my interest in safeguarding in its fullest sense and my personal background makes me a suitable candidate for General Synod.

A post modern frame of reference in the Western world challenges all previously held assumptions and beliefs, leaving children and young people especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Social media spreads false information promising instant cures for unhappiness, encouraging the avoidance of struggling with personal identity, and personal responsibility.

As a psychotherapist in private practice, affiliated with the BACP (British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists) since 2008 and on their media team, I am aware of the daily challenges that we face as Christians in an increasingly secular society. I am also in touch with the struggles of those not part of the church family who feel that they often do not fit in, or who lack a sense of purpose in their lives.

I am currently studying for a D Prof in Practical Theology at ARU (Anglia Ruskin University) with the Cambridge Theological Foundation and am a specialist in couples counselling and issues relating to male identity.

My interest in shared dialogue between the three main monotheistic religions has led to me becoming a fellow of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge, which works to foster mutual understanding and respect across Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Whilst never forgetting the Jewish roots of our faith (our Lord Jesus Christ was born into a Jewish family and “of David’s line”) I continue to attend a joint online Bible/Koran study group based at the Woolf Institute, to further dialogue and understanding. I have also lived in Israel, studied Hebrew, and have connections there still.

I have a strong “Bible based” faith but I attempt to express and live this faith with humility and a willingness to honour the perspectives of others.

Jennie Cummings-Knight

<https://www.goldenleafcounselling.com>