

THE REVEREND DOCTOR PATRICK RICHMOND

2010-15, 2016-26 Over 15 years on **General Synod**
2019-present **Chair, House of Clergy, Diocesan Synod**
2020–present **Diocesan Clergy Wellbeing Forum**
2015-present 11 years on the **Bishop’s Council of Trustees**
2019-25 **Rural Dean, Norwich South**
2007-present 19 years as **Vicar, Christ Church, Eaton, Norwich**
2001-07 **Chaplain and Fellow at Cambridge University**
1997-01 **Curacies in Leicester** (d. 1997, priest 1998)
1994-97 **Wycliffe Hall, Oxford** 1st class Theology B.A.
1994 **CMS Overseas Experience Placement** in Pakistan
1990-93 **Green College, Oxford** Doctorate in Physiology
1987-90 **Balliol College, Oxford** Preclinical Medicine
Born 1969. Married to Catherine for 30 years. 3 adult children



Proposed by: The Rev’d Canon Helen Jary, Rector of the Oulton Broad Team Ministry
Seconded by: The Rev’d Canon Howard Stoker, Rector of Holt with High Kelling

Dear Clergy Colleagues,

Thank you for the privilege of representing you on General Synod. I feel called to stand again, believing my experienced, evidence-based representation, grounded in parish ministry, clergy wellbeing and faithful theology, can make a constructive contribution in a particularly important period of the Church’s life:

Grounded in Parish Reality & Clergy Wellbeing

- **Parish Experience:** 23 years in the parish and 19 years as Vicar of Eaton have taught me that central decisions need to deal with the challenges parish clergy increasingly face: heavy administration, ageing buildings, stretched finances, fewer volunteers, and complex pastoral demands.
- **Clergy Wellbeing:** Synodical work on the Clergy Covenant and serving on the Diocesan Clergy Wellbeing Forum has sharpened my conviction that clergy need realistic expectations, proper support, and fair pay, housing and pensions.
- **Fair discipline and complaints:** I supported replacing the adversarial Clergy Discipline Measure with the Clergy Conduct Measure and will press for proper implementation. I will continue to seek the clear recourse against toxic behaviour by lay officers that the Church and clergy currently lack.

Save the Parish but Realistic and Targeted

- **Frontline Parish Ministry First:** Frontline, stipendiary parish ministry must come before central bureaucracy. I welcome Archbishop Sarah’s recommitment to flourishing local parishes, confirming that the “mixed ecology” was never intended to displace the parish system.
- **Demographic Realism & Foresight:** Since my widely reported 2011 Synod question on our ageing membership, I have pressed for honest, age-based projections. National forecasts from the Ministry Development Team show stipendiary clergy falling from 7,000 to around 5,400 within a decade, requiring preparation, not wishful thinking.
- **Evidence-Led Hope and Investment:** Realism is not defeatism: culture change and five years of post-Covid growth show what is possible where faith, youth, families and mission are prioritised. Extended vacancies damage growth. Given stipendiary clergy may well be in short supply, local oversight, focal leadership, funded interim ministry and shared benefices matter. Funds should be used to prevent short-sighted cuts and targeted toward areas of population growth, deprivation and youth ministry.

An Experienced, Effective Synod Contributor

- **Effective Contributor:** I have served on legislative steering committees and have moved targeted amendments to make motions more helpful and more broadly acceptable.
- **Promoting Accountability:** I use my full allowance of questions at every session to hold the centre to account. Among other things, my questioning on Synod's practical impact led the Business Committee to begin tracking whether national motions and calls to dioceses achieve real results on the ground.
- **Nationally Informed:** As Chair of the House of Clergy and an active member of the national Diocesan Clergy Chairs' Forum, I remain closely connected to the practical concerns of clergy across England.
- **Safeguarding and Redress:** I support the urgent delivery of genuinely independent safeguarding and the robust, trauma-informed operation of the Redress Scheme. Following recent external audits, we must eliminate structural ambiguity, build survivor trust, and deliver clear independence from institutional conflicts of interest. Survivors shouldn't have to trust the institutions that failed them to investigate themselves and put honesty and truth above reputation.

A Scientifically Literate Theologian and Ethicist

- With a doctorate in science, publications in theology, ethics and philosophy, and ongoing work as a reviewer for Science and Christian Belief, I bring analytic rigour to Synod's debates on theology, bioethics, AI, and creation care.

Committed to Unity in the Apostolic Faith

- My own journey — cathedral chorister, university chapels, evangelical theological college, and nearly two decades in parish ministry — has given me real appreciation for the breadth of the Church of England. Christ commands us to love one another; I am committed to working charitably and constructively with colleagues of every tradition.
- I uphold the Church's historic faith and marriage doctrine. Recent work by the Faith and Order Commission, together with legal advice to the House of Bishops, has emphasised that liturgy, discipline and unity are bound up with doctrine that is authorised by the whole Church, not merely narrowly. Because pastoral practice cannot bypass doctrine and proper process, I seek principled, respectful engagement across our disagreements, and as much unity as theological integrity allows, so that we can give renewed attention to our shared mission.

Your Vote Matters

If re-elected, I will keep bringing parish realism, legislative scrutiny and faithful theology to General Synod, and will represent all our clergy diligently, including those who discern things differently.

Under the Single Transferable Vote system, every preference counts. If you would like me to serve you on Synod, please give me your first or high preference vote.

With thanks for reading this and best wishes and prayers for your ministry,



The Revd Dr Patrick Richmond

161 Newmarket Road, Norwich NR4 6SY

Tel: (01603) 250844

Email: vicar@christchurch-eaton.org.uk