

Rev Steve Morgan

Proposer: Revd Jeremy Putnam (All Saints Highertown, Truro)

Seconded: Revd Laura Bushell Hawke (St German's with Anthony and Sheviock)

Who am I?

- Vicar of St Martin's Liskeard and St Keyne.
- Married to Jemma with 4 children, 6 chickens and hopefully soon a cat!
- I found faith at university in a charismatic Anglo Catholic church. Sunday evenings found me in an Evangelical church full of students. I was equally at home in both as the common ground was a living faith and an understanding of God that influenced and changed the lives of those who attended. I have always been fascinated by Jesus: uncompromising in his views on behaviour, justice, and wealth, yet so attractive to the very people he challenged that they left everything to follow Him.
- Before ordination I worked with the homeless, and then at sea with disadvantaged young people.
- I did my curacy in Scotland, was Rector of 6 rural churches near Salisbury and served as a Royal Navy Chaplain before coming to Liskeard. I am currently a Rural Dean and serve on Bishops Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Environment Committee. I'm a director of a C of E Multi Academy Trust and lead the Cornwall New Wine Network.
- I love woodwork (currently building my third boat), sailing and music. I play horn in a local brass band and took up the saxophone last year. I'm not very good at it. Along with God I support Portsmouth and suffer accordingly.



Why am I standing for General Synod?

I love the C of E. Somehow, we manage to hold together a huge spectrum of views and practises, all united by our common desire to share the love of Jesus and serve the nation. We have a rich heritage of theology and traditions, and we can build on this to reach communities for whom church is just not part of their lives. In my role as Rural Dean in both Truro and Salisbury dioceses, I have become increasingly convinced that there is so much more that unites us than divides us. Synod will have some difficult issues to consider, a shared vision will help us to address these.

The Parish Church is the bedrock of our Christian presence in the community, but it can't exist in isolation. What happens locally is affected by national events and agendas. I believe we need to work with each other, with other denominations and to be an active part of the wider national Church of England.

As well as being the legislative body of the Church of England, General Synod has an important role in setting the tone of our mission and ministry. National initiatives can have a real impact at parish level. I think it is important to be part of this conversation. Resources are scarce, and areas like Cornwall needs representing.

What can I offer General Synod?

As we seek to become a simpler, humbler, bolder church, I believe I have the following skills, experience, and background to contribute to General Synod.

- **A voice for Mission:** Justin Welby once said: *"The best decision that anyone can ever make, at any time, in any place, is to follow Jesus Christ."* He has made evangelism one of his three priorities as ABC. It's surely got to be one of our priorities too: as Christians, as clergy, and as Synod. I'm committed to helping all churches - and all Christians - to have the confidence and resources to engage with this. I have ministered in rural, town and urban settings and worked in mission projects before ordination. I hope this experience will help me speak into the national debate.
- **A rural/small town voice:** I grew up in the country and served 12 years in rural parishes before being appointed to Liskeard. Rural and small town churches make up over two thirds of the C of E, it is important that our voice is heard.
- **A concern for those without a voice:** Liskeard is a town with high levels of deprivation. Our church runs a number of projects helping those on the margins of society, including hosting a Christians Against Poverty centre. I am passionate about the plight of refugees and regularly go to Calais to work with refugees in desperate need.
- **Holding tradition and innovation together:** Our church has a rich tradition of liturgy and choral music as well as lively contemporary worship bands. I love them both! During the pandemic, we embraced new practices without losing a hold on our rich heritage. We don't have to choose either/or, it really is possible to do both well!

Thank you for reading my statement. I would be pleased if you would give me a high preference vote. If elected, I will endeavour to serve the Lord Jesus in being a representative voice for Truro diocese. If you would like to talk to me about these or any other issues, please call me on 01579 347411 or email me at steve@smartchurchliskeard.co.uk.