

Jane Palmer



My first shift in the new community shop in Whitley Village Aug 2021

Vicar of Atworth
with Shaw & Whitley

revjanepalmer@gmail.com

Nominated by The Ven Dr Sue Groom
(Archdeacon of Wilts)

Seconded by Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis

(Rector of the Benefice of Bradford on Avon
Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield,
Bradford Deanery)

Hello fellow Clergy! It feels a real privilege to send this to you all, at a critical time in our Church life I would be honoured to represent you all on General Synod. I think the people who know me best would describe me as creative, deeply committed to God, someone who desires to enable all of Gods people to flourish and someone committed to justice and integrity above all things. I am 38, a relatively young Priest, married to Andrew and serving my first Incumbency in a wonderful rural Benefice in Wiltshire. With have a lush Bulldog called Alfie who loves being a Vicar's dog.

I grew up in London, in a challenging environment, but always found church and my faith an incredible source of hope. Initially growing up in the Methodist Church but always drawn to the Anglican Church, I was confirmed at secondary school. I have personally lived with issues that are linked with deprivation, complicated family life and generally always loved and found myself being on the margins of life. As such I have a deep desire to share Gods love with everyone, particularly those whom others find it difficult to dwell among. I am a Franciscan Tertiary and as such Franciscan charisms; joy, justice, inclusivity, unity, integrity of creation and peace are things that am deeply committed too.

My previous work experience includes:

Youth Adviser for Connexions service then Bournemouth Borough Council, specifically supporting young people with additional needs and 16+ NEETS in a deprived area of Dorset

Secondary School RE Teacher (trained at Homerton, Cambridge)

Working as a youth worker, including general youth work, targeted youth work with those who had additional needs and supporting LGBTQ sessions in the London Borough of Hillingdon and general youth work with Bournemouth Borough council.

I have a lot of experience of working in multi-agency settings and with complex life situations, and have continued to use these skills in my ministry. As such Safeguarding is also a high priority in my work and ministry.

Key Issues I would like to represent at General Synod

Rural Ministry

In this Diocese rural ministry is a priority issue. This is not to exclude the wider contexts we minister in, but acknowledging that we need to think creatively about continuing to enable a Christian witness in our villages and cope with the financial pressures we face with smaller congregations and diverse contexts. God has called me to rural ministry and I have found it to be a wonderful context that is naturally pioneering because the boundaries of church are not with the building. It is also a fruitful place for building unity and inclusion because we have a range of people who attend or are linked with our church. This is an inspiring context that is deeply relational which could teach the wider church much about inclusion, mission outside the buildings and unity in diversity. I would like to be a positive voice for rural contexts and help find creative solutions which will help all parish contexts navigate this challenging time.

Unity and inclusion in the Church

I hope I can be bold and you can hear it in the spirit that it is intended – I am challenged by the internal strife within the breadth of the church. Whilst we are busy defending our own little bit of the church there is little energy to hear each other and respond with grace and love. The Church of England I want to be part of is not one that is defensive but an offering. So much of what we disagree on is about our language and also a result of the cultures we inhabit. I would like to be a voice for unity in our diversity, an example of honouring the breadth listening to all and giving a voice to those who feel voiceless whilst being dedicated to campaigning for an inclusive church at every level of our church life.

I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.

Clergy Wellbeing

I think I'm a pretty tough cookie, but the last 18 months has been so challenging. As I write this I say a prayer for us all, stipendiary and non stipendiary, retired and not. I would like to be an advocate for the support of clergy wellbeing across the church.

A key issue in the church which impacts this area is the enabling of the laity. Finding ways to help us be the Bishops, Priests and Deacons we were called to be and helping local laity to be empowered to take on the roles we are all so desperately trying to cover and find their active ministry is vital. I would love to hear and see a confidence in what it means to be Parish Priests and inspire hope for what the future may look like – we all know it is likely to be vastly different.

My promises to you...

- To be approachable, to help you have a voice and to hear your concerns
- To bring a voice of realism accompanied by vision, hope and joy
- To pray regularly for us as Diocesan Clergy with renewed vigour and focus
- To campaign for justice, equality and inclusion in and outside of church life

Please do use you vote, and if you are intending to vote for me, please consider doing that as 1st or 2nd choice.

The Lord Bless you all.

Jane x