
Rev'd Henry Curran

About me:

I am married to Kate (who is a pastoral and administrative worker at St. Mary's Wollaton Park), we have a two-year-old son, and are the proud owners of a Chocolate Labrador. I love rugby, fresh air and curry...

Current post: Vicar of St. Mary's Wollaton Park (since 2007)

Previously: Chaplain of Nottingham Rugby Club (2010-2013)
Chaplain at University of Nottingham (2007-2010)
Permission to Officiate St. Michael's Bramcote (2005-2007)
Curate at St. Giles' West Bridgford (2002-2005)
Ordinand, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford (2000-2002)



My priorities for the next synod:

- **Mission and Evangelism**

I believe passionately that Mission and Evangelism are absolutely central to what the Church is called to, and that we need to recover confidence that the Gospel really is 'good news for all people' and 'the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes'.

I believe that mission is both a local and global responsibility. Locally I have led several Alpha and Christianity Explored courses, and was involved in the creation and development of the Identity Course, which I have also led on several occasions. I long to see churches and individual church members encouraged and equipped to communicate the love of Jesus in both word and action, and to keep that mission at the heart of who they are. Beyond the local context I serve on the board of the mission agency Africa Inland Mission, and am increasingly convinced of the need to see our mission in global terms. I hope to see General Synod making mission the priority it should be.

- **Vocations**

As both a university chaplain and the vicar of a church with a large student membership I have been delighted to support several young men and women exploring vocations to ordained and other forms of ministry. At St. Mary's we have set up a scheme that offers recent graduates the opportunity to work for a church for a year, and I have seen how helpful this has been to people exploring whether full-time ministry is something that God is calling them to. As a member of the diocesan Young Vocations Group I attach tremendous importance to encouraging young people to explore both lay and ordained ministry.

Resourcing Ministerial Education is going to be a very important issue for the next Synod, and I am excited by many of the proposals of the Task Group's report in January. I am deeply concerned, though, that the proposal to discontinue the pooling of maintenance grants for candidates' families could make it impossible for ordinands from some dioceses to have residential training, and I think it is very important that high quality residential training remains available for any ordinand for whom it is the most appropriate form of training.

- **Leadership**

In the early years of my first incumbency I became acutely aware of how little training in leadership I had received, and I was hugely grateful to be able to take part in the Arrow Leadership Programme run by CPAS. I think it essential that both ordained and lay leaders are given ongoing opportunities for leadership development.

- **Human Sexuality**

This may be the single greatest issue facing the Church at the present time, and we need to navigate a careful course that is faithful to Biblical teaching and is sensitive to individuals' identities and needs. I hold traditional views on sex and marriage and would strongly resist any attempt to change the doctrine of marriage, but my involvement in the Listening Group within the diocese and in the national Shared Conversations has greatly impressed on me that there is a great deal of homophobia that the Church needs to repent of. Although I am a member of Reform I was greatly saddened that many other Reform members have refused to take part in the Shared Conversations as I believe that dialogue will be essential to finding a way forward.

There is much work that needs to be done to show how the Gospel is good news for all people regardless of their sexuality, and I hope that Synod will work hard to be pastorally sensitive, effective in its mission, and Biblically faithful.

- **Women's Ministry**

I am pleased that the debate concerning women bishops is now over, and it is good to see women flourishing in lay, ordained and episcopal ministry. I hope and pray though that women and men who have theological objections to women bishops will also continue to be able to flourish in the Church of England, and that women and men who are called to lay ministry continue to feel that it is not a second class ministry.

Please feel free to contact me:

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Nominated by: **Rev'd Dr Megan Smith** (Vicar of Holy Trinity and the Priory Churches, Lenton, and Chaplain at University of Nottingham)

Seconded by: **Rev'd Canon Dr Richard Kellet** (Vicar of Skegby with Teversal and Area Dean of Newstead)
