



REVD JO LEES-ROBINSON

Election Address

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📍 St Saviour's Church Nottingham

Nominators

Revd Lauren Simpson

Rector: Wiverton in the Vale

Revd James Moring

Priest in Charge: Benefice of West Trent

Who am I?

At present, I lead St Saviour's Church Nottingham, a church revitalisation in the south of Nottingham, in the socially, ethnically and economically diverse area of the Meadows. I am also mum to three young boys, Joshua (7), Levi (4) and Benji (1), and married to John, who is also ordained and leads St Saviour's alongside me. I was blessed to have parents who introduced me to Jesus and, as church leaders themselves, grew in me a love for and commitment to the local church from a young age. My faith journey has had many twists and turns, but my testimony is that following Jesus is the best adventure, and like any good epic, he has always given me faithful friends to journey alongside.

Why am I Standing?

I have admired from afar those who can navigate the complex work of legislating for an established and historic Church. I would not describe myself as political by instinct, but the Lord has been stirring in me the need for prayerful, prophetic voices in these days: voices able to speak hope-filled truth with gentleness and firmness. Any established Church needs to be continually reminded of the reality of ministry on the ground, and of the call of God to build his kingdom and not our own.

For me, General Synod should reflect the central purpose we share as Christians: to love and worship God and to extend his Kingdom on the earth. Synod needs to hold together the present reality of ministry and the world around us, while prayerfully asking where the Spirit is moving and how we should respond. At its best, Synod can be a corporate expression of partnership with God, taking responsibility for our nation and co-labouring with Christ to see his Kingdom come on earth. Every decision should be shaped by the apostolic faith handed down to us through Scripture and the tradition of the Church, breathed on and refreshed in each generation by the Holy Spirit. It would be a privilege to be a small part of that work.

My Commitment to You

To be prayerful in my service.

To be faithful in upholding and safeguarding the truth and outworking of Scripture.

To be missional in seeking to ensure the gospel is faithfully and creatively represented across the breadth of our diverse parishes.

Please see my Passions & Contributions on the following page

PASSIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS



Prayer – There is so much to do, and yet my greatest concern is that our work would be in vain if we do not seek the Lord and listen to his leading. I would hope to encourage prayer in and around the chamber, and among those praying at home in preparation for Synod meetings.

Worship & Spaces of Worship – Every consecrated building in the Church of England should be a place where people can walk in and encounter the presence of God through our common worship of Jesus. If we are truly to see renewal in our nation, our buildings need to be cherished as places of worship, and our liturgical life needs to remain centred around Jesus. At the same time, fresh thinking is needed about the parish system, to address the practical challenges facing many parishes across the country. I would be keen to be part of that conversation.

Mission – When it comes to sharing the good news of Jesus in our nation, we need to move from a posture of retreat to one of confident, hopeful engagement, trusting in the power of the gospel and the transformation Jesus brings to individuals and wider society. I would want Synod's decisions and resources to prioritise this work wherever possible.

Under-Represented Communities – Having grown up in these settings, I have seen how powerful it is when people see real change on the ground because their voice has been heard and taken seriously. I would love to be part of that work: helping to re-engage those who have counted themselves out, and ensuring that the breadth of our communities is better represented in the life and mission of the Church.

Unity – We are a broad and diverse part of the body of Christ, and we need family groups within the larger body where people can find belonging, voice and purpose. At the same time, we must resist becoming tribal, where different groups compete with or divide from one another. We need to be prayerfully strategic in our partnerships across the Church, bringing out the best in each other, leaning on one another's strengths, and being humble enough to admit our weaknesses.

Leadership Development – We are in urgent need of a new generation of leaders who love and serve the Lord with their whole heart, mind, soul and strength. I am passionate to see this resourced, and particularly keen to raise up those who are less likely to have spaces to thrive, including people from different socio-economic backgrounds, church traditions and ethnicities. As a younger woman learning to integrate motherhood and ministry, I am also passionate about encouraging vocations in that demographic and advocating for fresh ways of inhabiting ordained life.

Children and Young People – The Church will naturally grow older, but it will not naturally grow younger. Psalm 145 reminds us that 'one generation shall commend your works to another', and this, I think, is a beautiful description of intergenerational worship and mission. We constantly need to attend to this and ensure our churches and schools are resourced and equipped to press into the places and spaces that stretch us.

I would be more than happy to discuss anything you would find helpful, so please do send me an email and we can arrange a mutually convenient time to speak. If you feel I would serve well as one of your representatives, I would be very grateful if you would consider giving me your first or highest available preference vote.