

# Sam Norton

## ***Seriously and joyfully Anglican***

Vicar of Parkend and Viney Hill, Forest of Dean

Gloucester Archdeaconry

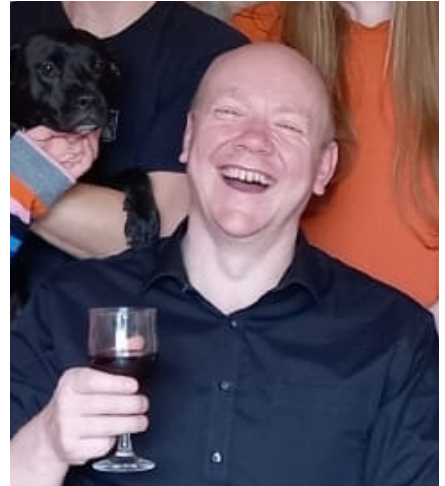
Proposer: John Paul Hoskins,

Tewkesbury and Winchcombe Deanery

Seconder: Pauline Godfrey,

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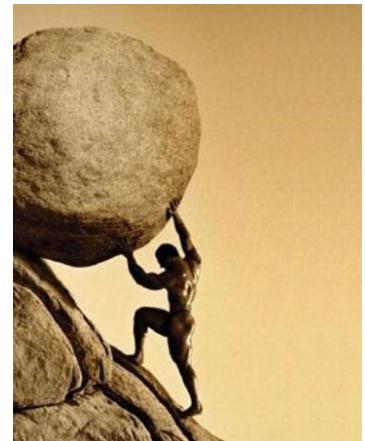


This Synod is shaping up to be the most important of my working life  
We will be making decisions about fundamental matters  
not just about gender, sexuality and identity  
but about the very structure and soul of our church  
I offer a thoughtful, faithful and loyal Anglican approach to the issues  
*but most of all*

**I believe that enabling clergy to become the ministers  
that they were called to and trained for  
is the most essential step that we can take  
towards renewing our church**

I am an **experienced parish priest** (ordained 1999) and I know what it means to be exhausted and overstretched, overwhelmed and isolated, to try and fail and then try again. If elected I will serve all the clergy of this Diocese and represent your interests at the national level. **I promise to communicate and consult** with you on all the major issues that come before General Synod

I support the **reforms to the Clergy Discipline Measure** that have been proposed by the Sheldon Community. I am a member of the Faith Workers Branch of Unite (and have been for 15 years)



### **THE DYING OF A CHURCH IS NOT A MANAGEMENT PROBLEM**

I support the Save the Parish movement especially this:  
**“Good theological education is at the heart of the  
revitalisation of the church’s mission”**  
*(not just clergy education,  
we need to feed the whole people of God)*

*If we keep doing the same things, we'll get the same results; it's time for a change*

**We shall not evangelise England with an emaciated incarnation.** We need a much more theologically sophisticated understanding of the nation – and then, with that, a clearer understanding of what it means to be the Church of *England* in our time – for this time is very ripe



*I'm a bit of a footie nut*



*Once I had hair...*

I work easily with colleagues across the whole diversity of the Church of England. My last spiritual director was a member of SSC; I have successfully planted a New Wine style congregation in a parish; I'm a Greenbelter and I love the BCP  
I don't fit in a box – who does?

**We need each other  
We need the whole church to be the church**

I am persuaded that same-sex relationships can have a sacramental character and be vessels for the amazing grace of God.

**I would vote in favour of the liturgical blessing of SSRs**  
(I am very influenced by the theologian James Alison)

**Living in  
Love and  
Faith**

*Churchmanship?*  
*My head thinks with*  
*Aquinas*  
*My heart sings with*  
*Wesley*  
*My soul belongs to*  
*the Lord*

Some of the most contentious emerging issues that we face are tied up with questions of identity and gender. **I am a trained philosopher**, and I have studied the question of identity for over thirty years.

I believe that I can help Synod to think clearly about these issues as we navigate our way through the arguments on each side.

My most fundamental commitment is that

**we are all made in the image of God**

I have a particular interest in the **Ministry of Deliverance** – I'm on the Diocesan team and I did the Vatican training in exorcism in 2019; I'm starting a PhD at Bristol in January 2022 looking at the interface between deliverance and psychiatric diagnosis

I believe **we must become much more spiritually serious** – much more honest with each other and with the world outside our walls.

If you honour me with your votes,  
that perspective will underlie everything that I do

*Some factual stuff*

BA Philosophy and Theology at Oxford; MA Philosophy and Religion, Heythrop London; Ordination training at Westcott House, Cambridge; 'Fast Streamer' in Department of the Environment (LOADS of management training!)

Ordained in 1999, I served my curacy in a Muslim majority area of Tower Hamlets, then was Rector of a large multi-parish benefice on the Essex coast for 15 years (uSa 250 across 8 Sunday congregations) before coming to the Forest in 2018

I have a big on-line footprint! See [elizaphanian.com](http://elizaphanian.com) or [@elizaphanian](https://twitter.com/elizaphanian) on Twitter