

Matt Orr

Lay Candidate



Who?

My name's Matt, I'm 23 and lodge with a young Christian family in Bath. I work part time for [Movement](#) (a youth ministry network based out of Bath, serving churches and young people across the South West). I've also been studying Theology, Ministry and Mission part time for the past 3 years at [Trinity College](#) in Bristol and will continue my studies come September. I'm an elected Lay member of the Bath and Wells [Vacancy in See Committee](#), playing an active role on our Statement of Needs team. I love to go to the coast surfing and playing tennis in my spare time!

Why?

In short, I really believe as the church we should be doing more to:

Invest in the younger generations that are currently missing in our churches

Develop more young leaders within ministry

Lead the way in sustainable environmental change

If I'm also honest, I was somewhat disappointed by how much I brought down the average age within our Vacancy in See Committee and think younger voices need to be heard.

Address

Having come to faith at the age of 19, growing up in a secular household in rural Yorkshire, I've since witnessed and experienced the power of the Gospel and the adventure that following Jesus brings. Upon giving my life to Jesus and being baptised on the 4th of June 2017, I made the decision to decline all my university offers of studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and instead seek to serve His church. Being obedient to His call, I ended up on a council estate in the northern part of inner city Bristol in September 2017. Little did I know I'd spend the next three years faithfully serving the community of Lockleaze - first as a volunteer for a year, and then two years as paid staff, at a local Bishop's Mission Order. Whilst leading worship, doing home visits and midweek groups, Alpha's and leading youth nights, running our foodbank and getting involved in local community events, God gave me a heart for His people and His Church. In 2018 Jesus led me into volunteering for Movement, and two years later prompted me to leave my job in Bristol and move to Bath to invest more of my time and effort into serving young people across the South West through Movement on the staff team. Once more I feel His prompting, leading me to stand for General Synod. This was in part inspired by my time on the Vacancy in See Committee, having seen the important part that I can play and the difference I can make!

I'd love to receive your first place votes, so please do vote for me. I appreciate you may know and support other candidates - if that's the case, please do consider me for your second place vote. Whilst I'm aware there are many interesting and significant debates and decisions to be made for the upcoming General Synod members, I truly believe if elected that I will listen to both God and those I'd represent, both clergy and laity, and through committing all things to prayer, follow the Holy Spirit's discernment and direction. My theology has been shaped in part by my time studying at Trinity College, but equally through my experiences of ministry in the real world outside of our lecture halls. I'm excited to say that I'm still learning from both. Although I hold a traditional view on marriage, I know my calling is to love, to serve, to listen and to pray, as ultimately it's the Holy Spirit that convicts us all. I believe Jesus empowered people from all backgrounds, male and female alike, and at any age, calling us all to seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). I really value the mixed ecology of the body of Christ and strongly believe we need to invest in local churches to reach local communities in new ways, transforming lives and society. This is an exciting time to share the Gospel and I'm thankful to get to do it as part of the Church of England.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch, and I hope to meet you soon! Matt (matt.orr@wearemovement.net)