

**The Revd Richard Anthony Seabrook
Chaplain, Ss Peter and Paul, Torrevieja,
Archdeaconry of Gibraltar**

Proposer: The Revd Stephen Graham, Antwerp, Belgium

Seconder: The Revd Guy Diakiese, Liege, Belgium

I was a Proctor in Convocation (elected member of the House of Clergy) in the last quinquennium having filled a casual vacancy and I am seeking re-election to the General Synod.



Some information about me...

I am, first and foremost, a Chaplain in the Diocese in Europe exercising a ministry as a Parish Priest. This has always been at the heart of how I believe God has called me to serve in his Church – as a Priest and Pastor. This is the most important model of ordained ministry there is. A Priest in a Parish. I have been a Parish Priest in the Church of England and the Anglican Church of Australia. I have been a Priest for over thirty years. I have served in this Diocese since 2015.

I have also been privileged to have been:

Proctor in Convocation, Diocese of Chelmsford, 2001 – 2005.

A Member of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, 2010 – 2015

Archdeacon and Vicar-General of The Murray, South Australia, 2009 – 2015

Administrator of The Murray, South Australia, 2010 – 2013

In the Diocese in Europe:

I am a member of Diocesan Synod and the Bishop's Council.

I am the clergy representative on the Finance, Audit and Personnel Committee where I have advocated for the clergy of the Diocese (both female and male) when it comes to difficult financial situations concerning remuneration, housing, terms and conditions of service, hardship and clergy well-being. I have done this for clergy of all traditions.

I was on Bishop Robert's advisory panel for the appointment of a Suffragan Bishop.

Why am I seeking election again?

1. **The model of parochial ministry is the best gift that the Church of England has.** It needs to be upheld, promoted, supported and encouraged. It is being eroded. Large mission areas with one or two priests responsible for large areas means pastoral contact with a priest is lost. Parish ministry is the bedrock of the Church of England.
2. The proposal to use 100 million pounds of Church Commissioners funds for **Project Spire** comes at the worst possible time for the optics of the Church of England when parochial ministry is being eroded.
3. **Central and diocesan church finances** need to be directed towards paying for clergy and supporting parochial ministry and not for strategies and advisors.
4. To uphold the **Seal of the Confessional**. I support better safeguarding in the Church of England at all levels but no evidence has been produced that the confessional has allowed abuse to go on undetected and removal of the seal would make victims of abuse less likely to seek counsel in this way. Rather the seal of the confessional, used wisely and correctly, assists in good safeguarding practices. Undoing the seal of the confessional is pastorally and sacramentally harmful. It must be upheld.
5. **Living in love and faith** has caused shocking levels of hurt, division, acrimony, mistrust and, in places, hatred across the Church of England and its dioceses. It has broken friendships and harmed the mission of the Church. Where is the God of love and peace in any of this? We all need to step back. There needs to be a major pause for healing and reconciliation. The Holy Spirit is a uniting force but we seem to be ever more divided which may show something is wrong.
6. **Clergy well-being** is under great pressure with financial pressures and issues for clergy retirement. I will do my best to work for improvements in clergy-well being for all clergy regardless of gender and tradition.
7. To promote the Sacramental life of the Church of England. In many places the sacramental life of the Church is being watered down.
To be faithful to the tradition we have received in Word and Sacrament.
8. To uphold **Mutual Flourishing** in the Church of England to allow all our traditions to unite in one common purpose – the mission of the Church and the proclamation of the Kingdom of God, the kingdom of justice and joy.

Please vote for me. Thank you. May the Lord bless you.

Yours, in Christ,
Richard Seabrook

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