



GÜVEN KULAKÇIOĞLU

Candidate for the House of Laity:
General Synod 2026

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Proposer: Kingsley Ezeani,
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ACADEMIC & CHURCH LIFE

I bring a synthesis of theological study, hands-on local discipleship, and professional communication skills to the table.

Film & Communications:

I earned my undergraduate degree in Radio, Television and Cinema from Istanbul University. During that time, I became aware of the power of media and how little Christians use it to their advantage. Since then, I have found myself spending my days searching for how meaning, beauty, and truth can effectively be communicated visually.

I actively use this background for the Church, having volunteered my media and broadcast skills for a local Christian radio station and Bible camps.

WHO AM I?

I am a Turkish- New Zealander Christian deeply passionate about visual media, communication sciences, films and the rich theological heritage handed down to us. I am a lay catechist and a theology enthusiast who was brought up and served in evangelical churches until 2025. One of my greatest joys is seeing historical theology take root and grow in the visual arts and hearts of local believers, drawing them closer to God.

My journey has been shaped by deep dives into Christian theology and philosophy, and the effort to incorporate them into the training and practice of my vocation in the audio-visual arts. I firmly believe that the depth of our Anglican heritage is not meant to be locked away in libraries and universities, but should be made available, accessible, and alive for the benefit of all Christians.

What I Bring

I desire that the Church of England remains anchored in its historic faith while communicating that faith with clarity and beauty to a modern world. To the General Synod, I will stand for three areas central to the Church's mission:

Theological Resourcing for Local Parishes:

The faith and heritage handed down to us must be made available to us. I will champion efforts to prioritise effective catechesis for modern believers, ensuring diverse congregations have the translated resources and teachings they need to grow in orthodox faith.

ACADEMIC & CHURCH LIFE

What I Bring

Student Outreach:

For the last three years, I have been active in the local Christian Union meetings for university students. In 2025, I have had the privilege of seeing Christian students at Istanbul University taking the initiative to regularly gather together to read Scripture, pray and encourage each other.

Lay Catechesis & Translation:

I was a bible study leader in my prior church and now at Christ Church Istanbul, with the permission of my chaplain, I serve as a lay catechist and lead Bible studies. I work to bring the abundance of English theological resources into the local language, translating the Church Fathers, Reformers and Divines so that the Turkish-speaking Christian world can grow and deepen through the richness of the history of the Church.

Clarity of Public Witness:

As a communications and media worker, I understand that how we communicate is as vital as what we communicate. I want to put my professional background at the service of the Church, helping to ensure legislative work and public messaging reflect the truth and beauty of Christ to a watching world.

Peaceable, Principled Consensus:

Our Church faces significant conversations. Drawing from my background of serving in various evangelical churches and now in a high church setting, I am committed to fostering a culture of grace and patient listening, seeking consensus where possible, and speaking truth with charity where we differ, always aiming to persuade the middle ground rather than driving division.

My Commitment to You

I will commit myself to being:

Faithful to our Heritage:

In upholding and safeguarding the historic, scriptural truth of our faith in church legislation.

Accessible:

Remaining approachable to all electors and providing transparent communication.

Diligent in Labour:

Labouring tirelessly to represent the voices of the laity, bringing a grounded, ecumenical and theologically informed perspective to discussions.

I would consider it a profound privilege to serve our diocese, and I humbly ask for your first-preference vote in this election.

May the Lord grant us all wisdom and discernment in this election, and may His peace and truth guide our Church in the years ahead. Amen.