



Revd Craig Taylor

Candidate, House of Clergy, General Synod 2026

Acting Chaplain (Curate), to become Full-Time Assistant Chaplain, Trinity Church Lyon (TCL) Diocese in Europe

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Proposed by: Rev. Massimo Radice (Curate, Barcelona)

Seconded by: Rev. Ben Harding (Acting Archdeacon of France)

Who am I?

Now

I'm 40, married to Becky, with two children, Elliot (8) and Isaac (6), and I'm beginning my ninth year in ministry: five as Associate Minister in a church revitalisation in Doncaster, which turned from an ageing, shrinking congregation into a younger, growing one, moving from paying a quarter of its parish share to nearly the full amount.

I'm now in my fourth year as Curate at Trinity Church Lyon, where the congregation has recently voted for me to become full-time Assistant Chaplain as my incumbent moves to two days a week.

The way here

It all began at 12, when a science class started me questioning. I wasn't willing to believe that my love of music, of questions, and of the people around me was all just an illusion. It took until I was 17 or 18, in a church home group, before that became a living faith. It turns out I quickly put God in a box, and as He broke out of it, that became a call to ministry.

I journeyed through the URC and several free churches, and then into the Church of England, drawn by its connectivity: the ability to hold real theological differences while staying bound to brothers and sisters who call Jesus Lord. When curacies opened up for me in the Diocese in Europe, it brought me back to a continent I already knew. Before training, I'd spent three years serving Christian students in the Czech Republic.

Why am I standing?

Scripture's vision of the church is that of a connected church; believers bound together, accountable to one another, correcting and being corrected. That's a large part of what drew me to Anglicanism in the first place, and Synod is where a large part of that connectivity gets worked out. Real decisions, made together, hoping Jesus will use it to build his church.



Trinity Church Lyon

TCL is genuinely varied: professionals, students, graduates, refugees, single parents. Members from most continents, a church where native English speakers only make up 50% of our congregation.

We're stretched by real questions: finding bilingual Sunday school teachers, and serving members whose stronger language is French or Farsi, not English. And we've built close ecumenical relationships across Lyon, with both the Catholic Church and the evangelical movements here.

What I'd Bring

Depth Over Dilution My own formation crossed traditions: a liturgy-valuing Presbyterian background, then a low-church Anglican parish, then placements in Anglo-Catholic parishes and Holy Week at Durham Cathedral. I found I need both: high-church practice pulls me to God's transcendence, low-church practice holds onto his accessibility. Since then I've kept asking what we evangelicals have thrown out simply because of who else does it.

At TCL that's meant building a liturgical quiet evening service into an otherwise low-church rhythm, and re-thinking the elements of our Sunday service. Having come through curacy training recently, I want to see it invest more in equipping people distinctly within their own tradition, rather than defaulting to a diluted middle that belongs fully to no one. A session unapologetically rooted in a tradition teaches me more about our differences than one diluted to offend no one.

Turning Decisions into Practice I rebuilt our TCL website, lyonchurch.org, to give visitors a clear way into church life. Last year I wrote a Bible-reading toolkit for our 20s and 30s working through Mark, equipping them to read a passage in the shoes of the first readers and giving them space to wrestle with what it means today, built to help a scattered community without enough leaders keep walking in God's word together. I want Synod's decisions to land the same way: not just passed, but built into something a stretched chaplaincy can actually use.

A Missional Mindset Three years serving Christian students in the Czech Republic taught me to ask how the gospel takes root in a culture not my own. I've kept asking that question since. Whether that is how the gospel reaches my working class family or what it means to be intercultural in a diverse congregation not just preserving our individual cultures but influencing each other so we are more than the sum of our parts. I want the gospel and church to take shape fittingly within a culture, not imported into it, so it can reach people who'd never expect Jesus to be for them, and recognise he is good news.

My Commitments

Rooted, Not Diluted: I will champion resourcing and formation that equips each tradition to go deeper into what it actually is, trusting depth over compromise.

Sent, Not Settled: I will call for a Synod with a missional instinct, one that takes seriously how the gospel reaches across culture and class to people who wouldn't otherwise expect it to be for them.

Built, Not Just Discussed: I will push for Synod's decisions to be followed through into something local, often stretched-thin, churches can actually use, not left as good intentions on paper.

If elected

I would seek to represent all the clergy of the Diocese in Europe as faithfully as I can. I would welcome hearing from you, whatever your tradition, before or after you cast your vote. As you prayerfully consider your vote, I'd be grateful for your first, or high-preference, vote.

Craig, Lyon, September 2026