

James Chantler-Mayne

Highlights

- Worships at St Andrew's Churchdown
- Believe the Church of England's top priorities should be:
 - Youth and young adults' engagement and discipleship
 - Community outreach and local mission
 - Financial sustainability
 - Church unity



Hey, I'm James. I'm a 26 year-old accountant, with a passion for youth work. I attend St Andrew's church in Churchdown.

I was born in Cheltenham and I grew up going to church. I went to university in Loughborough to study business management and to pursue a career in triathlon. During this time, I stopped attending church. After numerous injuries, I retired from triathlon and started my career in accountancy. After returning to Gloucestershire, I started attending church and gave my life to Jesus 3 years ago. I have been involved with the youth ministry for the past 3 years and leading church services for the past year. Most of my spare time is still taken up with running and cycling, along with youth work and discipleship.

I am passionate about standing on general synod so that younger people have a voice to shape the future of our church. I believe my experience in both youth work and finance will enable me to contribute to and offer ideas towards tackling two of the biggest areas that our church faces. The key areas that I feel I can contribute towards at general synod are:

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Youth and young adult engagement:

Youth ministry is one of the most critical areas of church and engagement is essential for future leadership and sustainability. Youth are looking for community and purpose, which youth groups and out-reach can offer. My experience in helping to lead youth groups and school Christian unions could offer insight into what youth value in churches. We need to help churches build sustainable youth ministries, to support volunteers and to build partnerships with schools

Young adult provision in churches outside of university cities is rare. With greater costs associated with university, more young adults are staying at home where there is often a void after youth group. Statistics show that around 70% of young adults who regularly attend church as teenagers, walk away during their transition into being a young adult. I will

champion extra funding for young adult ministries to help them thrive in their formative years.

Financial Sustainability

Many dioceses and parishes face increasing financial pressure and spending beyond their means. With the cost of living increasing, worshippers are struggling more with giving. Therefore, I would like to see stable, transparent funding for all. As an accountant, I believe I can offer insight into more realistic budgeting and forecasting. I would also like to help offer solution for new revenue forms and reducing costs, for example hiring buildings out for events, and transitioning towards more lay led ministries. This is especially important for more rural churches where there are multiple churches for one vicar.

Community Outreach and Local Mission

In the current difficult financial climate, the local church's work to help those most in need through food banks, warm spaces, toddler groups and pastoral care is vital to the community and showcasing the gospel. I would love to see these continue to thrive and for more opportunities to be enabled. I would love to see all churches where all are welcomed and loved. Therefore, I would like to see a more unified church one key issues and work towards a more cohesive, constructive culture.

Thank you for reading this election address and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. If you decide to vote for me, I would very much appreciate the highest preference vote that you feel able to give me.

Yours in Christ,

James

Proposer: Andrew Smith

Seconder: Paul Hobbs