

Re-elect Sam Margrave - 'your experienced voice, working to #SaveTheParish'



Proposer: Peter Rogers (Bishops Council, Former DBF Chair)

Seconder: Anne Dickinson (Deanery Secretary)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After much prayer, I feel called to stand to be your voice in General Synod again. With Kay, Yvonne & Andrew, I've worked hard to keep my promise since 2010, to be an independent strong voice, fighting for Parish Resources, the Poor, and Growth; guided by Isaiah 1:17 "Learn to do right, seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow". My proudest achievement on General Synod is my campaign to end the cruelty of 'paupers funerals', where councils would dispose of bodies with no service or refuse to return ashes to loved ones. Through a private member's motion, I changed the churches approach, helped the bereaved get support, highlighted the issue nationally & we lobbied Government. Change is now happening. "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). **I've attended all Synods, often spoken (67% didn't speak at all), voted, moved amendments, motions, and regularly asked your questions. I bring experience and understand how to get things done.**

Over the next 5 years our Church will have to grapple with some big issues. Who you elect will decide the kind of Church of England that exists post pandemic, into the next decade. **This will be a close election. That is why I am respectfully asking for your 1st preference vote.**

At 38, I am one of a few under 40. I lecture and research on devolution, business, entrepreneurship, and disability. As a former Company Director and Councillor, I understand budgets, data and can hold our leaders to account. As a former Diocesan Community Development Worker, my passion is mission and parishes. Not working for the Diocese anymore means I am entirely independent too.

Born in Coventry & growing up in both North and South Warwickshire I know our area well, and care about rural and urban communities. I am passionate about every expression of our Church. I came to faith at All Saints in Bedworth as an adult and now worship at St Marys in Nuneaton. I was a local Councillor involved in politics, retiring in 2018 to focus on Church & my PhD. I am also a trustee of the Chapel of Unity, Bedworth Armistice Day Committee, and on my deanery standing committee.

If re-elected (with your help and support), over the next 5 years I will continue to:

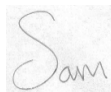
- Stand for Less Waste at Diocesan & National Level:** We need a financially responsible Church, spending money wisely. **I've been shocked by six figure salaries and discussions of closing thousands of Churches & slashing stipendiary Clergy posts.** I highlight waste, like Bishops expenses increasing by £1m in just 4 years. We must use our assets better, raise income, cut Parish share & invest in Parish Ministry. General Synod itself costs too much!
- Support radical resourcing of Parish Ministry and Growth:** We need investment in our Parishes to make buildings sustainable, fix roofs, install toilets, fund youth work and free up our leaders from time focused on raising the parish share. I championed new gift aid rules. Parish ministry is threatened by closure, merger, amalgamation, team ministries and CofE Mega Churches. Ending our diversity of worship styles or traditions. Church Commissioners are cutting funding for parishes while spending in other areas. I support deaneries which are threatened, and devolving fee setting powers. I am passionate about Church growth & evangelising England. More than ever our Nation needs Jesus. I support #SaveTheParish campaign (savetheparish.com), made up of all traditions with one goal, to protect & support Parishes.



3. **Oppose aggressive secularisation and calls to abolish Churches Charitable status:** I support public expression of Christianity, such as, the right to wear a Cross, or pray in public or at work. **I champion the good work Churches do and resist plans to force us to hide our faith!**
4. **Stand for Biblical Truth on life, death, sex, and Marriage:** I've opposed gender-based abortion, assisted dying (My Dad was terminally ill in 2016 so understand). I support current Church teaching on marriage. I will listen to and love those who disagree. LLF is flawed in so many ways risking harm, but also an opportunity for dialogue and reconciliation. Let's ensure all views are heard, seek Jesus in all we do; then as a Church we must stop looking inward at each other, often with fear and misunderstanding, and focus on living out the Gospel and sharing the Good News!
5. **Be a strong voice for the poor:** I am proud of my part in calling for the Church to have a bias to the poor, campaigning to tackle poverty in rural and urban areas, Raising funeral poverty, homelessness, foodbanks, the plight of dairy farmers and the hypocrisy of our Wonga investment.
6. **End Christian persecution in the world:** Synod must do more to hold Government to account!
7. **Campaign against sexualisation of Children:** By supporting Mothers Union calls for change.
8. **Playing our part in tackling climate change:** I've supported Commissioners using investments to challenge big business to do more, and the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Target. But any plan must be backed up with funding to enable parishes to install cost reducing insulation and renewables.
9. **Reach all Christians:** Many are back attending Church in person. The Parish has a special place. But we must also reach those who can't attend in person, using new technology. It isn't a choice between offline or online – it's about being Church in every space and place!
10. **Communicate with Parishes:** I've written reports, sent out emails, attended deaneries and diocesan synods. But GDPR and rules limit me using your contacts details. We must fix this!
11. **Make the Church more inclusive:** I've spoken up as a disabled person on education and other issues using my experience working with the disability unit and EHRC nationally. We need to make church more accessible and inclusive. I have called for more diversity reporting as someone of dual heritage. I have been vocal on supporting anti-racism task force recommendations. Our Church must also stop using gagging orders to hide and instead address our problems that arise.
12. **Improve safeguarding and other complaints:** We must reform the Clergy Discipline Measure which fails victims and accused, (including lay leaders such as ordinands or employed lay chaplains, workers, or leaders) and improve the wider complaints process to empower laity.
13. **Continue to speak on difficult issues:** I am not afraid to speak up on difficult topics or give alternative perspectives that others do not raise. I hold our leaders to account and offer challenge that helps us be a better Church for the nation and for Jesus. It is the desire to provide a voice for those others fear to represent, to seek accountability and that has prompted me to stand again.
14. **Be prepared:** While your Clergy may have gone above and beyond in the pandemic, national advice from Archbishops was ill thought out at best. We hope nothing like this happens again but need to plan how we organise and be a Church to a nation in Crisis. While some were there on the frontline, many Christians weren't recognised as keyworkers and forced to stay home.

My vision is for us to build a strong mission focused Church, ensuring we help people where they need us most. To stand up for biblical truths and offer much needed love to our communities. To improve parish access to national funding, and to develop mission programmes. If elected I will be a strong voice for the whole Diocese and all Parishes. **I hope you will support me with your 1st preference vote, time, and prayer. If I am not re-elected, because I appreciate some have other priorities than the ones outlined, I thank you for the last 11 years.** It's been a lot of hard work, but together we have made a difference. I look forward to hearing from you and hope I can count on your support.

Yours in Love and Prayer,



Sam Margrave

Contact
Details

☎ 07985151669 or 02477985809

🌐 samgrave.co.uk 🐦 @samueljmargrave 📘 /samgrave

✉ samueljmargrave@outlook.com

📍 50 Leyland Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV114RP