



## Rev Barney de Berry

Vicar St Mary Bredin, Canterbury  
Area Dean for Canterbury Deanery  
Member and Leadership team of CDEN  
(Canterbury Diocese Evangelical Network)  
Member of the New Wine Network

Standing for General Synod is not something that I expected to find myself doing but I have felt for a while that I should put myself forward for consideration. The origins of this was actually at the time of the last elections when, having recently moved to Canterbury, I was surprised and, if I am honest, disappointed with the older age profile of those who were standing. Though I am obviously five years older, having just turned 40, I feel I still represent the younger end of the Church of England and as Vicar of St Mary Bredin, I represent a church which has a growing number of 18-30 year olds, a generation sometimes referred to as the 'Missing Generation' in our churches and yet a generation that is vital for our future.

### **About Barney:**

I moved to Canterbury over five years ago to take up the post of Vicar at St Mary Bredin (SMB). SMB is a vibrant church blessed with members from every age and stage of life. In the last five years we have been blessed with growth and our hope is that we might be a blessing to the wider church. Before Canterbury I was Associate Vicar at Holy Trinity, Cambridge having served my Curacy at St Alkmund's, Derby. I trained at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford at the time that Alaister McGrath was principal.

I am married to Ruth who is a Consultant Gastroenterologist at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and we have three young (8,6 & 3) but fast growing boys. This means I am fully aware of the pressures that many in our congregations face in our busy and demanding society and the need for our churches to support and encourage rather than add to those demands.

I also grew up in a Vicarage as my Dad was a Vicar in a number of inner city parishes and I have been serving as Area Dean for Canterbury since June 2014, a role that has given me further insight into some of the pressures that we as parish clergy face.

In my spare time I love watching sport particularly cycling, rugby and cricket and whenever I get the opportunity I like to jump on my bike and ride up a hill.

## **Some Priorities:**

### **Evangelism**

I am passionate about Evangelism and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Sharing this great good news by word and action is, I believe, the fundamental business of the church. I long to see a renewed confidence in the message of salvation that 'God so loved the World that he sent his only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life'.

### **Church Growth**

The news about Church decline can be depressing, but I still have great hope for the Church of England. Being in day to day parochial ministry I am convinced that the key to growth is the local church. However we need to continue to think creatively and even radically about what this means and to think strategically about how best to deploy the resources we have in order to grow God's church and His Kingdom.

### **The Missing Generation**

Generation Y or 'Millennials' have been referred to as the 'missing generation' in the church, so it goes without saying that it is therefore vital that we look to engage with them. I have always had a heart for this generation and at SMB we have seen a large and growing number of them come to faith and join the church. We have found that they love being part of a church that has multiple generations, that offers a place they can make their own within an authentic community, and that proclaims ancient truths in a fresh and accessible way.

### **Human Sexuality**

This is obviously an area of debate that is very important for the church now and in the next few years. We must acknowledge past failures where misunderstanding has resulted in hurt and pain through pastoral mistakes. Yet we must also be very careful not to lose precious and eternal truths as we look to address those mistakes. I am an Evangelical and in upholding the Authority of Scripture would affirm the traditional view of marriage as taught by the church. The discussion and debate is a hugely important one for the church especially in shaping our pastoral responses. But we must always remember that Christ's Church is called to be Salt and Light in our world and so seek to shape the world not have the world shape us.

I would be grateful for your support in the election (and if I am not your first choice candidate I would ask you to consider giving me your 2nd or 3rd vote).

Please feel free to contact me:

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