

James Cary - General Synod Election 2026 Address

House of Laity, Diocese of Bath & Wells

James Cary

Proposed by Katherine Cannell

Seconded by Rob Dean



I'm 50. Born in Frome. Raised in Beckington. Married Melissa at St Mary's, Mudford. We now attend St John's Church in Yeovil with our two daughters (18 & 16) where I help lead the Pathfinders group (11-14s).

I'm a BBC comedy writer, having worked on *Miranda*, *My Family*, Milton Jones' radio shows, co-created *Bluestone 42* and even ended up co-writing an episode of *Death in Paradise*! I've written two books on comedy and religion, *The Sacred Art of Joking* and *The Gospel According To A Sitcom Writer* (SPCK).

I've toured numerous churches in the UK with one-man "stand-up theology" shows like *God, the Bible and Everything (in 60 minutes)*. I have also written and produced plays about faith including *The God Particle* which is about to be revived by Riding Lights Theatre in York.

I believe the Church of England is uniquely positioned to serve and bless our nation through the proclamation of the gospel, the discipleship of followers of Jesus Christ and the formation of communities. I am keen to play my part and use my time and experience to continue to serve on the General Synod.

11 Years of Experience on General Synod

I was honoured to be elected to represent the Diocese of Bath & Wells in the House of Laity at General Synod in 2015. Since then, I have spent 11 years learning the ropes and understanding how the Church of England works (and doesn't work).

6 Years of Experience on the Archbishops' Council

In 2019, I was elected to represent the House of Laity on the Archbishops' Council, where I had to learn how all of the National Church Institutions operate and profoundly affect life in the parishes. I also gained invaluable experience working across various traditions, which is where the vitality of the Church of England comes from.

Please vote for 'James Cary' for General Synod. Thank you.

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This is why I remain committed to the Five Guiding Principles and am proud to chair the 1990 Group on General Synod, so that all can remain within the Church of England and work together to be a source of unity and blessing for our nation.

Commitment to Children and Young People

My work on the Archbishops' Council contributed to the focus on resourcing and equipping for children and young people who are turning to the Church for roots, stability and guidance in ever greater numbers. I've seen this firsthand at my own church through the groups for children and young people, as well as in the lives of the friends of my teenage daughters. I have also been encouraged by responses to the *Faith in Families* podcast I co-host and produce for Faith in Kids.

To this end, we need to ensure that our churches are truly wonderful places for children to come, where they feel safe and welcome. To help make this possible, I have served on the **National Safeguarding Steering Group**, as well as being a member of the **Redress Scheme Board**.

Commitment to Local Churches & Parish Ministry

If you watch my YouTube channel, you will see how excited I am by the historic presence of parish churches in the heart of every community. These places must be cherished, protected and resourced. Parish churches are beacons of hope at the heart of communities, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, expressed in a way that is local and relatable, as well as historic. Chaplaincy has its place, but parishes must be the main place where the majority of discipleship happens.

I would, therefore, really value a first or high preference for me, **JAMES CARY**, in this election. Thank you.

For more information:

If you have any questions for me at all, please email me at jamesedwardcary@gmail.com

You could also watch some of my videos on my YouTube channel by searching for "James Cary".

Please vote for 'James Cary' for General Synod. Thank you.