

# The Revd Mark Lucas

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- Rector of St Botolph's, Barton Seagrave  
and St Edmund's, Warkton

- Member of Bishop's Council  
and Diocesan Board of Finance

- Married to Julie, a teacher,  
with four grown up children and three grand-daughters

## Who am I?

- 1983 - Graduated from Manchester University in Biochemistry then spent eight years working in the computer business.
- 1994 - Ordained in the Diocese of Chelmsford after three years at theological college.
- 1998 - Moved to Chichester Diocese
  - Two years running a retreat and conference centre.
  - Ten years in suburban parish ministry.
  - Served on the Bishop's council and worked with the Diocesan Youth team and the Adult Education team.
  - Delivered the Bishop's Certificate course to groups mixed in age, experience and churchmanship.
  - Local tutor with STETS for those training for ministry.
- 2010 - Moved to Barton Seagrave in Kettering Deanery.

## Why General Synod?

I am passionate about the Church of England. I believe we hold a unique

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### I am Passionate about the Church of England

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position within our nation to bring about real, grass roots, change. However, I have some serious concerns:

- Our numbers are in serious decline. Some would say "free fall".
- We are facing financial pressure like never before simply to keep going
- We are in danger of neglecting our core beliefs. The very thing that could bring about real change.
- Our nation is becoming more and more distant from its Christian foundations.
- Should the nation be shaping the church or the church the nation?

*P* to ...

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*P*lease consider giving me your first preference vote

# What are my priorities?

Despite my concerns I believe all is not yet lost. There have been two major encouragements in the last year:

- The *Anecdote to Evidence* report has demonstrated that church growth is still possible by highlighting areas where it is happening. The truth is there are green shoots. And there need to be more.
- Second, it is wonderful to part of a diocese that is experiencing real church growth. The most recent statistics have proven that investing in ministry at the grass roots results in growth.

With these encouragements in mind my priorities in serving you will be to:

- Support the parish and parish clergy as the focal point of mission. This means reducing bureaucracy and centralism to enable parish clergy numbers to increase and to set them free for mission.
- Oppose wherever possible the joining of more and more parishes into single benefices. This is anti-mission. Spreading clergy too thinly is to accept decline.
- Support good theological education for those entering ministry. Recent changes to theological education may save money. But the cost is too high.
- Work to support any legislation that will increase clergy morale. Tired, worn down, demoralised clergy are not good for mission.

- Encourage the good training of lay people to equip them for mission too.

## Other issues

Of course, we all know there are other issues facing the church at the moment. There has been so much change in the church since my ordination in 1994. And we face the prospect of much more change in the future. This is unsettling to say the least and many are wondering how long they can stay in the church they joined and once loved. I believe in the unchangeableness of Scripture and the value of 2000 years of tradition. This alone should be our guide and rule.

## Finally

If elected I will be representing and serving those who elected me, Peterborough Diocese. I will do this first and foremost and to the best of my ability.

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t: 01536 628501

e: [rector@stbots.org.uk](mailto:rector@stbots.org.uk)

m: 07788 100 757

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Please consider giving me your first preference vote