

Rev Dr Lee Gatiss

For General Synod 2021

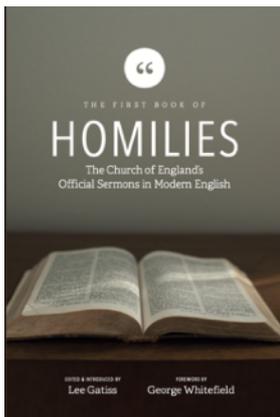
Vote
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Please consider giving me your
FIRST PREFERENCE VOTE

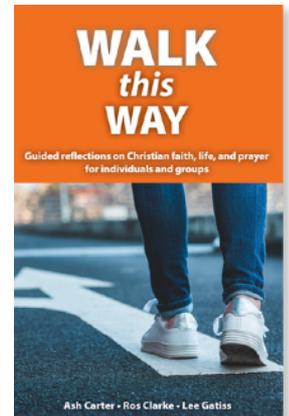


Serving

- I have been ordained since 2001, and have served in urban, suburban, and rural parishes in Peterborough and London dioceses (both large and very small churches, from informal worship to choral BCP services). I've lived in Ely diocese for 12 years, serving at Christ Church on Newmarket Road in Cambridge with my wife Kerry and our three children (aged 12-19).
- I chair a national conference and network for "junior" Anglicans — those considering vocation, training for ordination, or serving in a curacy or first incumbency. We explore issues of multi-parish benefices, working across traditions, baptismal and wedding policies, and other nitty-gritty issues, with teaching input from bishops, theologians, and parish priests.



- I have written and edited more than 30 books including a Study Bible, two books on the cross, and several volumes on the past, present, and future of the Church of England, as well as commentaries on the Pauline epistles, the *Thirty-nine Articles*, and the Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Ten Commandments. My most recent publication is a new modernised edition of the Anglican *Homilies*.



- I teach Church history at Union School of Theology (everything from medieval to modern), am Assistant Editor of *The Global Anglican* theology journal, and regularly speak abroad and around the UK (including leading the Church of England's National Online Service during 2020, *pictured*). I have weekly "Lee on the Lectionary" videos on YouTube.

- As well as preaching and writing, including blogging and social media, as Director of Church Society I'm involved in patronage work for around 130 parishes nationwide — a huge variety!

A Flourishing Church of England

As I see it, the big issues facing us in the next quinquennium include:

- *Reform and Renewal*: We must take care over issues of clergy support and morale if ministry is to be really sustainable, not try to create 'vanilla multi-parish benefices', nor spend our historic assets casually or just on "projects" rather than parishes (which are the often-overstretched

heart of our church). But it is right to thoughtfully simplify our often slow bureaucracy (esp. around buildings), and face financial stresses and ethical investment questions head on.

- *Living in Love and Faith*: It is a challenge to have LLF on our agendas at the same time as trying to recover from the shocks of the pandemic, but I am keen to encourage churches to engage with the subjects raised by it, in as clear and gracious a way as possible (and have helped produce resources to facilitate this). People are complex: we all have struggles and fall short of God's holiness, so the Church should be a safe place for *anyone*, to hear Jesus's message of repentance, forgiveness, and wholeness.
- *Leadership*: the Church of England is unequivocally committed to all orders of ministry being open to all without reference to gender, and was wise to acknowledge and provide for the theological minority view as within the spectrum of teaching and tradition in the Anglican Communion. I hope that clear decision within the Bishops' "five guiding principles" will not be a cause of ongoing contention, and that our bishops will lead us in mission to the nation — the whole nation, with all the rich diversities of culture, race, education, and class differences that we have. Our precious unity in Christ could be a shining light in a fractious and divided world.
- *Mission and evangelism*: I do not think the church is inevitably destined to diminish! Mission must be our top priority as a Church, not managing decline. As we deepen our commitment to God through word, worship, and prayer, we bear witness to the faith uniquely revealed in the Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds. I believe we must work and pray for greater boldness and clarity as we proclaim it afresh, however uncomfortable or unconventional it may be in our society, engaging and resourcing the laity and ourselves for mission in an increasingly hostile environment.

Please consider giving me your FIRST PREFERENCE VOTE

If I'm not your first choice, please consider giving me your 2nd or 3rd vote



If elected to General Synod, I will seek to be a good representative and advocate not only of my own traditions but of the wider Church of England, and seek to bring the concerns and contributions of us all to the attention of the Synod. I will be available to discuss any aspect of the work of Synod with any colleague or group, whether in person, by email, or by phone. If elected, I would love to hear what you want to happen at General Synod, so that I can best speak up for all clergy within the competing voices of the Synod.

Lee