



ANNA DE CASTRO

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ABOUT ME

I am 40 years old, and grew up in beautiful Sheffield. In my early twenties, I moved to Cape Town, South Africa to study Theology and Pastoral Care. It was there I met and married my husband, Mendes, and we have now been married for 16 years. After our time in South Africa, we returned to Sheffield, where we have been raising our two lovely daughters, Gabriella and Lucia, who are now teenagers.

For the last 13 years, I've had the privilege of serving in full-time ministry in the Diocese as a Minister for Children, Youth, and Families. I am passionate about seeing children and young people grow in faith and love for Jesus, and flourish as active members of the local church. Outside of ministry, I love spending time in nature, especially exploring the treasures of the Peak District. I also love painting, cooking, watching great movies, and spending time with family and friends.

EXPERIENCE

PERSONAL FAITH

2001 - present

I am deeply grateful to have grown up in a family where I was taken to church and taught the gospel of Jesus from a young age. The best decision of my life was when I chose to trust and follow Jesus as a teenager. As soon as I began to follow Jesus, I loved sharing the gospel with others and opening up God's Word to explore and discover who Jesus is, and as a young Christian, I was given lots of opportunities to serve and grow as a young leader. After I finished school and completed a Foundation in Fine Art, with the support of my church, I pursued a path into full-time church-based ministry among children and young people.

MINISTRY TRAINING

2005 - 2010

I was given the opportunity to serve as an apprentice in Children's and Youth Ministry in Charleston, South Carolina. It was a very special experience to serve in such a different church context. I then completed an additional apprenticeship back in Sheffield Diocese before going on to complete a BTh in Theology and Pastoral Care at George Whitefield College in Cape Town, South Africa. This was an incredibly enriching time, studying Scripture in such a diverse context, among students from many church backgrounds and from all over the continent and beyond. I was greatly blessed by experiencing the gospel flourishing in such a multi-cultural context.

BACK IN SHEFFIELD

2010 - present

After graduating, we returned to Sheffield, and found great joy serving in this beautiful multicultural city. As well as still serving with children and young people, we had a great desire to continue exploring and serving the gospel in multicultural and diverse contexts. This involved ministry among international students before we found our home in a wonderfully diverse parish in the Diocese, where I served for 7 years as a Minister for Children, Youth and Families. This parish is still very dear to us. In 2020, we moved to serve in a semi-rural parish to support a church graft, with the same goal of reaching out and discipling young people and their families.

I am so grateful to God for the whole variety of experiences that have been included in our ministry journey so far.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

2021 - present

Since 2021, I have had the privilege of serving as a member of the House of Laity on General Synod. During this time, it has been a great gift to serve alongside brothers and sisters from across the breadth of the Church of England, for the sake of blessing and effecting the life of our loved church. It has been a huge learning curve in so many ways! One of my most treasured aspects of this time has been to serve alongside those from such a variety of church backgrounds and traditions. Serving on General Synod has enhanced my commitment to seeing the gospel flourish in the life of the Church of England in ways the impact and bless local parish ministry. My ongoing interest and investment in seeing the Church of England flourish meant it felt like a very natural step to stand for Bishop's Council in 2024, and I've been very grateful to serve on that body since then.

WHY I AM STANDING FOR GENERAL SYNOD

I would love the opportunity to continue serving as a member of General Synod, doing what I can to ensure the Church of England is a place where people of all ages and backgrounds are welcomed and can encounter the saving love of Jesus. I am committed to listening carefully and working thoughtfully alongside those who hold different views, and seeking the good of the whole Church as we pursue our shared calling to make Christ known.

Some particular areas of interest are:

Children and Young People

I have a particular heart to see children and young people being reached and growing as disciples for the blessing of the church. I believe my experience in this area could help to serve the mission of our church to grow younger.

Racial Justice

I've had the great blessing of living, studying, serving, and marrying cross-culturally. These have all been powerful and enriching experiences in my own faith, and I would love to use them to help shape the Church of England to ensure it is a place of welcome, embracing the beautiful diversity of the people living in our parishes.

Marriage and Sexuality

I am deeply committed to ensuring our churches are places where all encounter genuine welcome, are cherished as image-bearers of God, and given the opportunity to come to know the life-giving love of Christ, regardless of their sexuality or gender. I hold the Church of England's historic understanding of marriage and sexual intimacy, and believe the gospel of Jesus is where all are invited to flourish fully as humans. I am whole-heartedly dedicated to serving with graciousness, respect, and love.

Low Income Parishes

It is of great importance to me that the Church continues to invest and support the gospel flourishing in low-income areas. Having served in parishes that fit this profile, I am aware of the distinct joys and challenges of ministry in these contexts, and I would love the opportunity to support work that sees thriving congregations in these areas of our Diocese.

Thank you!

Thank you for reading and considering me as a candidate.

I would be so grateful to have your support with either your first or highest preference vote. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or matters you wish to discuss.

With every blessing in Christ,



Anna De Castro