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Church of England Clergy Could Be Banned From Supporting Restore Britain Under Synod Motion

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"An upsurge in far-right activity on the streets and racialised language online"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Church of England clergy could be banned from joining or supporting the hard-right Restore Britain party under a Private Member's Motion put before the General Synod, the Church's governing body. But nothing has been banned yet: the motion still needs 100 signatures before it can even be debated, which would happen next year.

The motion was brought by Sam Wilson, a lay member of Synod and a youth worker in Altrincham, Greater Manchester. He said he acted after witnessing what he called "an upsurge in far-right activity on the streets and racialised language online".

For Wilson, this is not an abstract debate about politics. It is about what he sees on the streets where he works with young people.

The motion affirms that "all people are created in the image of God and that racism is a sin". It calls on bishops to use section 3(3) of the Clergy Conduct Measure 2026 to declare Restore Britain's policies, objectives, activities and public statements incompatible with the Church of England's teaching on the equality of people of different races.

Clergy found in breach could be suspended - and ultimately defrocked.

Restore Britain Synod Motion: What It Would Mean For Clergy

The stakes, in other words, are a clergyman's livelihood and vocation. A ban would mean that a priest who joined or publicly supported Restore Britain could lose the right to minister at all. That is why the motion has drawn attention well beyond the Church: it would put the Church of England in direct conflict with a political party that has polled at up to 5% and become a magnet for far-right activists, some of whom explicitly link Christianity with British identity.

Restore Britain was set up by Great Yarmouth MP Rupert Lowe after he fell out with Reform UK. Its members include Calvin Robinson, a former GB News presenter and Church of England cleric. Lowe himself has reacted furiously to the motion, calling it "outrageous" and saying: "I am not tolerating it."

The motion deliberately mirrors what the bishops did 17 years ago, in 2009, when they banned clergy from belonging to or supporting the British National Party. Wilson and his supporters argue that the same principle applies now: if the Church could draw a line at the BNP, it can draw one at Restore Britain.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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