

Adam Gaunt

Rector of Loftus-in-Cleveland
& Carlin How with Skinningrove
in the Deanery of Guisborough

Proposed by: **Dominic Black**
Vicar of North Ormesby & Rural Dean of Middlesbrough

Seconded by: **Rachel Harrison**
Vicar of Redcar & Rural Dean of Guisborough



Who I am...

Born in Middlesbrough in 1979, I grew up within the East Cleveland villages of Brotton and Boosbeck in the Deanery of Guisborough. After attending Warsett Secondary School in Brotton and The Prior Pursglove College in Guisborough, I read Theology at St John's College Durham and graduated with a BA in Theology 2000 and as a MA in the Faculty of Arts in 2002.

After graduation I worked voluntarily as a Lay Pastoral Assistant in the Parish of St Thomas, Brambles Farm in the Deanery of Middlesbrough 2002 & 2003 under the direction of Father Edmund Wheat SSM. After being selected for ordination, I read for Holy Orders at St Stephen's House Oxford from 2003 to 2005 and was elected President of the Common Room and Senior Student in 2004.

Ten years in Holy Orders, I was ordained Deacon in York Minster Sunday 28th June 2005 and served my Title as Assistant Curate at The Church of The Ascension, Berwick Hills in Middlesbrough 2005 to 2009 under the direction of Canon David Hodgson. I was ordained Priest at The Ascension, Middlesbrough, by the Bishop of Whitby on Saturday 1st July 2006.

After three-and-a-half years in East Middlesbrough, I was Instituted and Inducted as Rector of Loftus-in-Cleveland and Carlin How with Skinningrove by the Bishop of Hull and Archdeacon of Cleveland in March 2009, a benefice back in my home Deanery of Guisborough.

Why I am standing...

→ I believe in the Church of England!

I wish to see the General Synod being less apologetic and more self-confident about the position that we hold at the very heart of our nation and within each and every community. The existing climate of austerity and central government's desire to see an increase in community engagement provides our National Church with a unique opportunity to confidently reassert a meaningful Christian presence at every level and at the heart of every community.

→ I believe that clergy of all ages and traditions should play an active part in the life of our National Church.

The General Synod has a pivotal role in directing, governing and shaping the life, the mission, the ministry and the future of the Church of England; the Church, which as a priest in my thirties, I intend to serve in stipendiary ministry for the next thirty years! I offer myself as a candidate who will speak up for all of us who have responded to the call and have committed ourselves to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ in the ordained ministry of His Church.

→ **I believe in the Parish System.**

The Parochial System is a defining characteristic of our National Church. However, with the number of stipendiary clergy falling and the size of benefices growing, considerable stress is now being placed upon this system. Nevertheless, I strongly believe that this is not the time to throw the baby out with the bath water! As a parish priest I believe that the parochial system is one of our greatest assets for mission, ministry, engagement and evangelism. I support and encourage the increasing role of Lay Ministry within parishes and the principles behind our diocesan bishop's vision for all parishes to be actively "Making and Nurturing Disciples." As a member of General Synod, I would uphold the parochial system and defend parochial ministry from the context of being an incumbent in a benefice with high areas of deprivation, here on the outskirts of Teesside, and with ten years' experience of parish ministry under my belt.

→ **I believe in Christian Education.**

Another of our great assets is our network of Church Schools, and the role played by the Diocesan Board of Education and of countless clergy, readers and committed Christians, who serve their communities on school and academy Governing Boards. As the current Chair of Governors at *The Unity City Academy* in East Middlesbrough, and as a Trustee of the *Academies Enterprise Trust*, I believe the Academies Programme to be another opportunity for the Church to confidently reassert its position as an integral part of our nation's Education Sector. I also strongly believe that education is the best tool for tackling long-term deprivation.

→ **I believe in the tolerance and inclusiveness of Anglicanism.**

I fully accept that it is the will of the Church of England to consecrate both women and men to the episcopate. I also recognise and affirm the Five Guiding Principles, which were commended to General Synod in May 2013. The willingness of the last General Synod to provide provision for those loyal Anglicans who, like myself, genuinely struggle with this development, provides strong foundations for mutual flourishing, tolerance and respect. As a member of General Synod I would seek to uphold the Five Guiding Principles and to support and represent all my colleagues regardless of tradition or gender. Going forward, I see myself as part of the solution, not as part of the problem!

→ **I believe in the Diocese of York!**

I am proud to have been born in, to belong to and to serve in the most ancient diocese in England! We are fortunate to be the mother diocese of the Northern Province and to have the leadership and pastoral oversight of John Sentamu and his team. Together we should be increasingly confident in our faith, confident about the future and secure in the place Christ has given all of us within His body, the Church.

**Please Consider Offering me a
High Preference Vote in the Coming Election**

Thank You



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