

Dr Nick Land – Candidate for General Synod 2021-6



Dear Friends

I am standing for General Synod because I love the Lord Jesus and want to serve his body, the Church.

Personal

I am married to Helen who is a Middlesborough GP, Church Warden and Trustee of the Genesis project. We have three adult sons (all active churchgoers) and a grandson. Professionally I am a psychiatrist and was NHS medical director for the mental health and learning disability services in the northern part of the diocese until retiring in 2018. I returned to work over COVID to set up and chair an NHS COVID ethics committee. I am Chair of Members for the Arete multi academy trust.

Local Church

We have worshipped at Christ Church Great Ayton since moving to the diocese in 1994. Over that time I have served as a Home Group Leader, a Youth Group leader and most recently completed my training as a Reader (pictured above). Prior to lockdown I co-led our Café Church, which we plan to restart in September. I have been a Stokesley Deanary Synod representative for Christ Church for 24 years.

Diocese

I have served on Diocesan Synod for over 20 years and been on Archbishop's Council for 15. For the past 9 years I have been Chair of the House of Laity, seeking to ensure that the Lay voice is heard in the diocese and working with the Chair of the House of Clergy to improve Synod Members' ability to participate in Synod. I have chaired the Vacancy in See committee for the past 5 years and served on the Crown Nomination Committee which nominated Archbishop Stephen.

Wider Church

I have been a York Lay Member of General Synod from 2015. I have been Chair of the Christian Medical Fellowship and continue to speak at its student and doctor conferences on Christian perspectives on mental health and on leadership. I have a particular interest in 'Every Day Faith' and what it means to be a Christian in every area of human life and have been a mentor for the EA young leaders programme.

Approach to issues in General Synod

I value the diversity we have in the Church of England, my own Parish is broadly Catholic, but like many village churches it welcomes a range of theological views. I think it would be extremely sad for the church to split, so I will be working to promote those things that maintain unity – for example, whilst I enthusiastically support women priests and bishops, I also support the '5 guiding principles' which allow for traditional Catholics and 'headship evangelicals' to remain a valued part of the church. I recognise the Anglican Church's threefold approach to authority of scripture, tradition and reason, but if there are situations where these are in tension I will tend to follow scripture.

I am committed to ensuring that those discipling children and young adults are resourced and equipped to help them 'Live Christ's Story'. I recognise the centrality of the Parish in our life together and the significant work required to support church growth following 'lock-down'. I will therefore be encouraging General Synod to be realistic in any additional demands it makes on PCC's, Deanary and Diocesan Synods!

Given my extensive professional and church experience I believe that I can continue to be an effective Lay Member of General Synod for the York Diocese and I would ask for your support.

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