



Adam Gaunt

*Rector of Loftus-in-Cleveland and
Carlin How with Skinningrove*

Proposed by: Luke Tillett Acomb Moor: James-the-Deacon

Seconded by: Adam Reed Saltburn-by-the-Sea: Emmanuel

Thank you for reading my election address

Born in Middlesbrough in 1979 I grew up in the Deanery of Guisborough. I read Theology at Saint John's College, University of Durham, and graduated with a BA in Theology 2000 and an MA in the Faculty of Arts in 2002. From 2002 to 2003 I worked as a Pastoral Assistant in the Parish of Middlesbrough: Saint Thomas and (after being selected for ordination training) I read for Holy Orders at Saint Stephen's House, University of Oxford, from 2003. I was elected President of the Common Room in 2004 and became an ex officio member of the House Council.

I was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Hull in York Minster Peter-tide 2005 and ordained Priest by the Bishop of Whitby in July 2006, while serving my title as Assistant Curate in the Parish of Middlesbrough: The Ascension under the late Canon David Hodgson. I was Instituted as Rector of Loftus-in-Cleveland and Carlin How with Skinningrove by the Bishop of Hull in March 2009 a benefice back in my home Deanery of Guisborough.

I have been a member of the Diocesan Synod since 2006 and of the General Synod since 2015. I also serve the wider church as a trustee for Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland, and for the Prayer Book Society. In the wider community I am a trustee of the Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and I chair the board of trustees at the Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum in Skinningrove. I am also a member of the Faith Workers Branch of Unite the Union.

Five reasons why I am standing for election to the new General Synod...



To positively assist in the rebuilding of church life post pandemic

The pandemic has brought into sharp focus many of the underlying issues which have been facing the national church, our diocese, deaneries, and parishes. However, this is also a unique and once-in-a-generation opportunity to seize the initiative, to rebuild church life upon our historic foundations, and to creatively reimagine what an Anglican Christian presence in every community could look like as we move towards 2030. I see the next five years as a unique opportunity to positively re-build church life in the post pandemic environment.

I believe in the parochial system

I genuinely believe that our church's greatest asset is our network of parishes and benefices. The Church of England was, is, and always will be a mixed ecology of ministry, from our parishes and network of schools, to cathedrals and extra-parochial chaplaincies. Moving forward, I believe we must continue to value, support, and if necessary defend parochial ministry as the backbone of our mission and ministry to the nation; while simultaneously working alongside pioneer ministers, chaplains, and members of the laity to bring the gospel into those organisations, communities, and locations which need to hear it the most.

To support the reformation of the Clergy Discipline Measure

I broadly welcome the continued professionalisation of our shared vocation to serve as ministers in the Church of England; nevertheless, there is now general consensus that the Clergy Discipline Measure is not fit-for-purpose. Moreover, there is evidence that the Clergy Discipline Measure has been used to threaten, intimidate, undermine, and even bully clergy. Consequently, I support reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure and I will work for a more balance clergy conduct procedure. I would also encourage colleagues to consider joining the Faith Workers Branch of Unite the Union.

I support greater pastoral accommodation for all within our church

The Living in Love and Faith process has been a major undertaking of the previous General Synod and everyone involved is to be thanked for their endeavours, for sharing their often heart-felt experiences, for their honesty, and candour. It is clear that there is a genuine need for greater pastoral welcome, accommodation, and acceptance for everyone who engages with our national church. While I would be unable to vote in favour of a change in our understanding and doctrine of Christian Marriage, I will continue to actively engage in - and support - the work of the General Synod in discerning pastoral accommodation for all.

To see the Church of England at the forefront of best safeguarding practice

Because the Church of England's historic record in safeguarding is so shameful, we must continue to work together to create a culture where safeguarding is truly embedded, and where safeguarding learning and best practice is shared, encouraged, and supported. If elected, I will continue to advocate for best practice in safeguarding. I will also seek to work with others to ensure that we truly learn the lessons from our past endeavouring to see our national church at the very forefront of best safeguarding practice.

Please vote in the forthcoming election and kindly consider offering me a high preference vote. Thank You !

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