

Statement for General Synod

I'm standing for Synod because I believe the Church of England is strongest when it remains rooted in the communities it serves. In my current role as Pastoral Support and Closed Churches Officer in the Diocese of York, I work with clergy, church wardens, PCCs, and communities facing change, helping care for our historic churches and the people connected to them.

Previously, I worked four years with the Farming Community Network, supporting volunteers and farming families. I saw up close that in times of crisis, people often turned first to their local clergy, the ones who could knock on the door and be welcomed in. I believe that a ministry of presence in community matters. Our churches are more than buildings, they are places of prayer, hope, and pastoral care, and we must not lose that rooted presence in every community.

I have served as a church warden, a member of my PCC, and an active parish volunteer. These experiences have given me an understanding of parish life from the ground up and a deep appreciation of the commitment shown by volunteers and clergy alike. If elected, I would bring that experience and an open mind to Synod. I have a keen interest in many areas of Synod's work, mission, safeguarding, governance, and the responsible stewardship of resources, but my particular passion is ensuring every community, especially our rural ones, benefits from visible, well-supported parish ministry. I believe we must encourage and nurture future vocations, invest in the formation and ongoing support of our clergy, and ensure that those called to ordained ministry are equipped to flourish.

It would be a privilege to represent our diocese in General Synod. Bringing practical experience, careful listening and a positive vision for the church's future.