

Candidate for General Synod

The Revd. Dr. Ashley Carter



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Please get in touch if you have any questions

Rector, St Andrew's, Kirk Ella
and St Luke's, Willerby (since 2018)
Member of Diocesan Synod (since 2019)
Member of the DAC (since 2023)

Dear Diocese of York Clergy Colleagues

I am offering myself to serve you for the next quinquennium of General Synod. I don't offer this lightly. The previous Synod was a somewhat bruising experience for many. But our Synod is so important to our life as a national church with an international importance. Having been privileged to see growth at St Andrew's over the last few years, I am excited to encourage the church to focus on the things that make for our unity and the flourishing of parish churches to the glory of God.

As you consider a number of excellent candidates, could I ask you prayerfully to consider giving me your first preference vote so that I can represent your concerns at Synod.

About me

I am married to Mim, a secondary maths teacher, and we are the parents of Harry and Tim, plus one dog and a guinea pig. I grew up in an agnostic household with little exposure to church. It was at university that I was first introduced to Jesus and began to follow him. I am hugely grateful for the courage of the students who offered me the gospel and remain a champion of both student ministry and our wider mission wherever God has placed us.

I spent eighteen years in London where I first worked as an accountant, before being called to ministry. In my ministry, I have been involved with serving students, running workplace evangelism in central London, including to the civil service in Westminster, church planting in a couple of contexts, and now semi-rural parish ministry on the edge of Hull. I believe that this variety of experience is invaluable to understanding the variety of ministry contexts in our county and the country.

I have sought to serve the wider church in a number of ways. I have contributed to several books, including *The Money Mentor* and *God Speaks* (both IVP). I have served on the Diocesan Synod since my arrival in the diocese, and more recently on the DAC. We are the national church, and I have always believed that an Anglican should be willing to serve the parishes by serving beyond the parish in

some capacity. I ask that you would enable me to begin serving you in General Synod.

Specific Issues

The **parish** is the way God has promised to grow his church - through local people living and speaking for Jesus in their context. I will use my finance skills to press the Church Commissioners to strengthen frontline ministry. This will also mean a focus on **clergy wellbeing** that enables faithful, fruitful ministry. This will be essential both for our current clergy and any hope of sustaining future **vocations** into the Church of England.

National **Safeguarding** remains high on the agenda for the next quinquennium. I long to bring rich reflections on building a healthy Christian community in the parish to Synod. It is vital that the highest safeguarding standards are focused through a biblical understanding of the church and work in practice in and for all our churches.

I am concerned that **mission and discipleship** is often neglected in our national conversation for more peripheral matters. It is time to restore this main thing in our national and diocesan conversation.

A significant part of addressing the foregoing is our emphasis on **mutual flourishing**. My doctoral work was on working together across difference in the seventeenth-century church and I hope I can bring a historically-informed perspective to Synod. Inevitably, this synod will discuss **sexuality and marriage** at length. The last synod clarified the depths of our disagreements. Generosity, patience and a commitment to mutual flourishing will be necessary in order to resolve the issues highlighted. I believe I am well-placed to play a part in these discussions.



Please vote for Revd. Dr. Ashley Carter for your General Synod rep.

Nominated by: The Revd Canon Adam Gaunt, Loftus-in-Cleveland & Carlin How with Skinningrove (Cleveland)

Seconded by: The Revd Vicky Earll, The Ascension and St Thomas, Hull (East Riding)