

Adam Gaunt

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

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

Seconded by: Ross Copley Middlesbrough: All Saints



Thank you for engaging with my election address for General Synod 2026

A **bout Adam...** Born in Middlesbrough and raised in the deanery of Guisborough, I read Theology at Saint John's College, University of Durham, graduating in 2000 and subsequently gained a MA by thesis in 2002. After concluding my research degree, I worked as a Pastoral Assistant in the Parish of Saint Thomas, Brambles Farm, in Middlesbrough, before reading for Holy Orders at Saint Stephen's House, University of Oxford 2003-2005. Ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Hull in York Minster in June 2005 and Priest by the Bishop of Whitby in July 2006, I served my curacy in the Parish of The Ascension in Middlesbrough. Following my curacy, I was Instituted as Rector of Loftus-in-Cleveland and Carlin How with Skinningrove by the Bishop of Hull in March 2009 and have served sixteen years as Parish Priest in this unique, lively, and growing coastal benefice.

A **dams Ministry...** Alongside this life-giving parochial ministry, I have served as a member of our Diocesan Synod since 2006. Since 2017 I have served in the diocese as a trustee for *Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland*, and in the wider community as a trustee of the *Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation* from 2019. In 2014 I was appointed the *Bishop of Beverley's Representative* and have positively assisted with a number of key appointments to Society Parishes in our diocese. I am an active member of the *Faith Workers Branch* of *Unite the Union* and regularly attend meetings with fellow colleagues and with our Archdeacons, supporting best practice in our shared ministry. I am also a member of the *Deanery Leadership Team* and in 2025 I was honoured to be made a non-residentiary canon of our diocesan cathedral.

A **dams in General Synod...** First elected in 2015, I am a member of the *Catholic Group on General Synod* and served as Chairman from 2022 to 2025.

Since 2017 I have fully engaged in the *Living and Love and Faith* (LLF) process and was an active participant in the *LLF Working Groups* (Leicester Groups) 2024 – 2026. While never compromising my own conscience, I have worked pragmatically to help identify possible ways ahead and to seek a lasting settlement. I have also demonstrated my ability to work with the many different Anglican traditions as represented in the breadth of *The Alliance* of which I have become a director in 2024.

In January 2023 I was appointed to the *House of Bishops Standing Commission on the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests* (the Five Guiding Principles) which has positively affirmed my commitment to genuine mutual flourishing across the whole Church of England.

Passionate about Safeguarding, I was pleased to serve as a member of the *Legislative Steering Committee* and *Revision Committee* for the *Abuse Redress Measure 2025*.

It has also been a great honour to serve as a central member of the *Crown Nominations Commission* for the See of Bristol and for the See of Leeds.

Adam Gaunt is standing for re-election to the General Synod to...



Affirm the Parish System

At heart I am first-and-foremost a Parish Priest! I genuinely believe that our greatest asset is our network of parishes, and while the Church of England always was, is, and will continue to be a mixed ecology of ministry, the nation still encounters the Church of England and our Christian ministry primarily through the parish system.

If elected, I will continue to support, affirm, and defend parochial ministry as the backbone of our Christian mission and ministry to the nation.



Advocate for Disadvantaged Communities

All of my ministry has been joyfully spent in under-resourced and disadvantaged parishes, both in the Borough of Middlesbrough and in the Borough of Redcar & Cleveland. Many of our coastal communities (such as my own parishes) are recognised as being disproportionately disadvantaged and we are a coastal diocese. Measuring from the Humber Bridge north to the Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough our diocesan coastline is 166 miles in length!

If elected, I will continue to advocate for and support the *Lowest Income Communities Funding* while advocating for further investment in our most disadvantaged parishes and communities.



Advance a Settlement Following LLF

I have fully engaged with LLF and will continue to engage positively and pragmatically in the ongoing discussions and discernment processes that lie ahead. Because there is such genuine and sincerely held disagreement, I believe a compromise is increasingly unlikely and that some form of settlement will be required.

If elected, I will continue to work constructively and pragmatically for a lasting settlement while upholding Holy Matrimony as defined by Canon B30



Assist and Support Genuine Mutual Flourishing

Serving on the *House of Bishops Standing Commission on the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests* (the *Five Guiding Principles*) has given me a privileged insight into the costs of the 2014 settlement; nevertheless, it has also been heartening to acknowledge how the settlement has enabled genuine mutual flourishing.

I continue to uphold the *Five Guiding Principles* and, if elected, I will work to assist and support genuine mutual flourishing across the Church of England.

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

The Reverend Canon Adam Gaunt

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