

Liz Hassall – Archdeacon of York

I would welcome your first preference vote.



Who am I?

Since I was ordained in 2009, I have served in the diocese of York, working in multi-parish ministry in coastal, rural, urban contexts, first as curate and then incumbent. My social media profile (Bluesky) describes me as “**C of E Priest, knitter, cat-person**”. I am also a mother of teenagers and, from the beginning of 2026, the Archdeacon of York.

I am a **lifelong**

Christian. In following Jesus, I have drawn inspiration from both the evangelical and catholic wings of the Church of England, as well as from the wider Church. The evangelicals taught me to value scripture, the catholics taught me to find joy and peace in sacramental worship. I would not be without either of those, so I find myself as an Anglican somewhere in the middle, still drawing inspiration from different sources of faith and **seeking to serve the whole Church.** My spiritual home is probably Taizé, ideally with a choir singing works from the Anglican choral tradition as well.

Nominated by

The Revd Nick Morgan, Area Dean of New Ainsty

The Revd Jackie Doyle Brett, Area Dean of Derwent

I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

My faith is grounded in **the love of God for all people**, and the radical work of inclusion and restoration seen in the death and resurrection of Jesus. My response to grasping something of this love has been to look to share the gospel, especially with those who feel that they are excluded or don't belong in some way. In recent years, I have been led especially to work for greater inclusion within the life of the Church of England for those in the LGBTQIA+ communities.

Previous experience

- **Member of General Synod from 2021-2026.** Over the course of five years I have spoken in debates about funding for lay training, diocesan finances and confirmation statistics. I was a member of the reference group for the liturgical work establishing the Festival of Creation in Christ and I have recently been appointed to the reference group for the National Funding for Diocesan Ministry Review. I have regularly fed-back to York Diocesan Synod on the business of General Synod, often being asked to give a perspective from the progressive point of view but always striving to be balanced and courteous to all.
- Previous and current membership of **York Diocesan Synod and Archbishop's Council.** This gives me a solid understanding of what York Diocese needs from the national Church.
- Extensive experience of **ministry in small parishes.** Too often, the Church agenda seems to be dominated by large churches. Having spent 16 years ministering in multi-parish ministry

with congregations ranging from less than 10 to 120, I am passionate about the value of worshipping in local parishes, serving local communities.

- **Work with asylum-seekers.** In responding to a group of people from Iran who came looking for a Church, I developed a greater understanding of intercultural ministry and the challenges faced by those who have left everything behind for the sake of their faith.

Why stand for General Synod (again)?

I love the Church of England but I remain frustrated by many aspects of the life of the Church. My approach to an institution which is not working well is to dig in, **get involved and work from within**. This is why I stood for General Synod 5 years ago. Now, I know a great deal more about how the national Church operates and how it is possible to get involved and work for change. I would like to continue to do this.

Many of the dioceses of the Church of England, including York, are struggling with financial deficits. In response to this, I have begun to serve on the reference group for National Funding for Diocesan Ministry review. I hope this will result in **more sustainable funding for dioceses**. I will continue this work if re-elected.

The connections I have made with others seeking to work for LGBTQIA+ inclusion have opened my eyes to the other dimensions of exclusion which exist both within the Church and beyond. As a result, I have learned and will continue to learn about aspects of exclusion such as racism, ableism and neurodiversity and seek to **make the Church of England a place where every person is valued** for the individual and diverse gifts which they bring to the people of God.

Clergy wellbeing is an increasingly important issue to me in my work as archdeacon. Being on General Synod gives the opportunity to influence policy and to ease some of the pressures of ministry for all.

If re-elected to General Synod I will

- Pray with and for all those involved in the life of the Synod
- Commit to listening to those who disagree with me and learning other points of view.
- Give the highest priority to strengthening safeguarding in the Church of England
- Continue to seek out ways that I can contribute to the work that goes on between sessions.
- Listen to and engage with those I represent

Do you have more questions?

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Thank you very much for reading this election statement. I would be very grateful for your first-preference vote, or the highest preference you are able to give.