

The Revd Steve Wilcox

**Proposed by: The Revd Vicky Earll
Seconded by: The Revd Mark Walley**

Thank you for taking the time to read my election address, and I hope you will consider voting for me.

I have 19 years experience as a parish priest in York Diocese, and have served on General Synod from 2021-2026. I am passionate about mission and discipleship, clergy well-being, and the centrality of the parish. I will shortly begin serving as Associate Archdeacon for Hull: supporting churches across the city, helping develop mission and discipleship in the Deanery, and sitting on the Living Christ's Story Programme Board. If elected, I would be in a position to represent the needs of local parishes and the Diocese at a national level, as well as helping integrate what is positive from the national church into the life of the Diocese. I am committed to supporting and encouraging the ministry of female and male clergy from all traditions.



I would love to hear what you are concerned about. Please feel free to share your views with me, or any questions you may have, at scfwilcox@yahoo.co.uk.

My background and context

I have been an Anglican all my life, growing up in an Anglican church, attending Anglican churches during my formative years and serving in ordained ministry in York Diocese for the past nineteen years, most recently as vicar of St Peter's Anlaby and St Mark's Anlaby Common for fifteen years. After university I worked for six years as a chartered accountant, before being selected for ordination in the Church of England.

I arrived at St Peter's and St Mark's as the first incumbent of the plurality, so I have personal experience of leading a multi-parish benefice, and helping two churches learn how to work together whilst continuing to engage with and serve their parish. During the past fifteen years I have experienced many of the ups and downs of parish ministry that all clergy face – including the opportunities for mission and discipleship that parish life brings; the financial, governance and volunteer challenges; and personal financial and health (including emotional, mental and vocational) challenges.

I begin as Associate Archdeacon for Hull in early September 2026. Fundamental to the role is the importance of building relationships with clergy and churches, enabling me to act as a bridge between parishes and the wider Deanery and Diocese. If elected, this will give me the opportunity to genuinely represent the views of parish, Deanery and Diocese and seek to find positive and beneficial ways forward locally and nationally.

Over the past 5 years on General Synod I have made it a priority to attend and vote at all Groups of Sessions. I have spoken on a number of occasions and sought to represent the views of those in the Diocese who have contacted me. Within the Diocese, I have also served on York Diocesan Synod since 2018, and also on the Diocesan Board of Education for 3 years. I am a member of the Supporting Parishes

consulting group and an MDR reviewer.

I love York Diocese and its rural, suburban and urban contexts. I am a regular visitor to many parts of the Diocese and am deeply aware that if elected I would be seeking to represent every part of the Diocese.

Areas in which I might make a contribution

This is an exciting and challenging time for York Diocese and the Church of England. Many of us are aware of God being at work locally and nationally, but also of challenges (not least financial). Here are some examples of where I believe that I can make a contribution:

The importance of the parish and finance

I see the parish as the foundation of all ministry in the Diocese and the Church of England. Research shows that most missional activity takes place in the context of the parish. Given the enormity of the task before us and the opportunities I am persuaded that space needs to be made for other expressions of mission and ministry, but they mustn't detract from the centrality of the parish. This should be reflected in how money is distributed by the Church Commissioners (including via the vitally important LInC funding), and there will be opportunities in the coming 5 years for General Synod to influence this.

Clergy care and well-being

I have long been an advocate of the importance of clergy care – both care by the local church and the Diocese, and self-care. I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing and was disappointed that it was not given attention in the last Quinquennium (though I'm encouraged by the very helpful Living Ministry resources). If elected I would seek to ensure that this continues to receive the attention it deserves.

Safeguarding

The Church of England is part way through the vital process of ensuring that its safeguarding processes are fit for purpose, suitably independent whilst also being rightly connected to Diocesan and parish life. I have experience of the process and debate thus far and would consider it a privilege to continue to be involved.

Church unity and human sexuality

In the last General Synod vital and difficult conversations were held regarding the different deeply held views and lived experiences in the Church on matters of human sexuality. Good progress was made in developing understanding and clarifying boundaries. I seek to operate as a peacemaker, I have built good relationships with those on all sides of this debate, and I would hope to continue to play a positive role in the ongoing conversations in the coming years.

Prayer, and emphasising God's goodness, faithfulness and provision

In the debating chamber of General Synod there is sometimes a danger of prayer and theology being neglected. I would seek to continue to highlight the importance of these matters in helping all debate to be conducted in a hope-filled, confident way.

If I am elected then I do hope that you will feel free to contact me to express your views and concerns. I should be grateful if you would consider giving me your first, second or third preference vote.

With thanks

Steve