

Dear colleagues,

I have grown up in the diocese and I have lived in it my whole life apart from my time studying at university and at theological college. I have a deep love for this diocese and want to make sure that its needs and opinions are represented well at a national level. I may have only been ordained for a few years but my experience of the diocese is broad both geographically and spiritually. I have spent significant time in urban, suburban and rural parishes in both a lay and ordained capacity. I have also served and worshipped in both evangelical and Anglo-Catholic parishes, my previous three years were in the parish of St Alkmund and St Werburgh's in Derby and I am currently a part of the clergy team at Derby Cathedral. I strongly believe that one of the Church of England's real strengths is its capacity to hold together this wonderful variety of worship and through it to have a geographical reach to every single person in the country. I want to see the whole church grow and flourish and I hope that by being on General Synod I will be in a better position to help this process.

Nationally I think the Church is at a very interesting point in its history. Generations in our society are starting to grow up who have little or no cultural knowledge of what Christianity is or means other than the snippets they might see on television or in films. We are called to preach the gospel afresh in every generation and we now have to because so many in our parishes have no idea what the gospel is any more. I want to be part of General Synod in the hope that through it new ways can be found and encouraged to release the Church nationally to preach the Good News of Jesus to people who have never heard it before and don't even know that it exists. This will require an increasing boldness from Synod in its decision making, for instance in taking further the changes around the Simplification process, to enable local churches to engage creatively in their missional contexts.

I want to be on General Synod to ensure that over the coming years the Church of England continues to not just exist but to grow, evolve and to be fit for its purpose of being light and salt in the world not just for my time in ministry but for the people who will come after me. This requires a Synod that is willing to be imaginative and brave in the direction it offers the Church and I would be committed to supporting this direction of travel.

I believe passionately in God's Church, I believe He has a future and a purpose for us and I want to be a part of helping that purpose to be achieved, in this diocese and throughout the Church of England.

I hope you might offer your vote for me,

Reverend James Durrant