

## **GENERAL SYNOD CASUAL VACANCY ELECTION ADDRESS**

### **RHODRI WILLIAMS (NOVEMBER 2019)**

Dear members of Derby Diocesan Synod,

Whoever you decide to support for the General Synod Casual Lay Vacancy, please do vote!

Being a relative newcomer to the area (moving to Derby in 2015), I and my family have become active participants in the life of Derby Cathedral — and the wider Diocese — ever since. I have been a lay clerk at the Cathedral since relocating, and my wife (Rachel) is active as a member of the Cathedral's concert management team, both amongst other commitments! Following a lifetime of being a Welsh Baptist, I — along with Rachel — was baptised and confirmed at the Cathedral's Easter Eve service in 2017, with our daughter Anwen being baptised there at the age of six months in September this year.

Until recently I worked for East Midlands Ambulance Service as an Emergency Medical Technician, with further additional training as a Pastoral Care Worker (dealing with staff welfare, regularly liaising with the Service's chaplaincy department), Practice Educator (responsible for the supervision and training of new staff), Special Operations Response Team operative (major incident response and management), and as a "Station Voice" representative (advocating for staff welfare within the organisation). I left the organisation in order to return to university to complete my Paramedic training, alongside which I am currently exploring my vocation to ordination in the Derby Diocese.

If elected to represent Derby Diocese at General Synod, I intend to:

- i. Present an ardent, yet reasonable, voice for young adults in the Church, advocating on behalf of my own generation — something more experienced members of Synod (at all levels) are perhaps not best-equipped to do, in spite of their good intentions.
- ii. Related to (i.), advocate for continued use of traditional language in worship wherever possible, available for worship wherever it is desired. I acknowledge, respect, and love the diversity of churchmanship to be found within the Church of England, however as a member of the Prayer Book Society I am committed to promotion of the worship and doctrine enshrined in the Book of Common Prayer and its use for services, teaching and training. I have observed first-hand the number of individuals driven away by

“contemporary” and/or “laid-back” worship, to the detriment of the Church as a whole, and to its traditions.

- iii. Advocate for a more welcoming and open Church for all — including anyone in a committed and loving relationship. I firmly believe that sexuality and gender should play no part in admission to the Church (“official” or otherwise), guided by the words found in Saint Paul’s *Epistle to the Galatians* (Galatians 3:28).<sup>1</sup>
- iv. Encourage the Church to continue to be open to other denominations and traditions in order to preserve and improve ecumenical relations, with the acknowledgement that each has something to learn from the others.
- v. Support Synod’s work on the environmental crises faced by humanity, driving for continued engagement in a matter that is certain to affect each of us in some way, at some point. The Church as an organisation is uniquely placed to both challenge and support government and international agencies, and to work in conjunction with other churches and faiths in order to protect Creation.
- vi. Support independent monitoring and review of the ongoing abuse scandal within the Church.
- vii. Encourage review of the parish system and its utility in the modern world.
- viii. Related to (vii.), support the Church’s ongoing commitment to pioneer ministry and church planting, whilst at the same time advocating for increased support for — and engagement with — existing churches and congregations.

If you would like to contact me directly, please feel free to do so via email: [mrdrwilliams@live.co.uk](mailto:mrdrwilliams@live.co.uk). I am also to be found on Twitter: [@CymroWilliams](https://twitter.com/CymroWilliams).

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my candidacy.

With very best wishes,



Rhodri

---

<sup>1</sup> “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” — AKJV