

# RACHEL BOND

ST FRANCIS MACKWORTH

Nominated by: Simon Lewis, St Werburgh's Derby

Seconded by: Alison Henshaw, St Peter's Chellaston



## CONTACT:

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## PRIORITIES:

- **A Church rooted in the parish**, where local mission is valued and resourced, and where people are welcomed into a living relationship with Jesus.
- **A Church with godly, accountable leadership**, marked by integrity, humility, and prayerful discernment.
- **A Church that listens to working-class voices**, recognising the gifts, wisdom, and faithfulness present in every community.
- **A Church committed to wellbeing, inclusion and healthy leadership**, where those who lead and serve are cared for, where voices that can go unheard are listened to, and where everyone has the opportunity to grow in faith and flourish.
- **A Church that holds truth and grace together**, engaging with theological questions in a way that is both faithful and compassionate.



## Dear friends,

I am standing for General Synod because I care deeply about the life of the parish and the everyday faithfulness that happens in homes, communities, and churches across our diocese. As someone from a working-class background, a voice still under-represented in our national conversations, I want to ensure that Synod reflects the breadth of the whole Church of England.

I am married with two children and have a very mischievous house bunny, and like many families, we juggle work, study, school runs, and real-life pressures. I know how important it is that the wider Church stays connected to the realities of ordinary people trying to follow Jesus in the midst of busy, complicated lives.

As a Licensed Lay Minister, I have the privilege of serving in my local church, preaching, teaching, and supporting the ministry of others. I have always loved the parish church since I became a Christian aged 14 and started attending along with some friends. The experience of being an LLM has deepened my love for parish life and strengthened my desire to see mission, discipleship, and pastoral care flourish at every level of the Church.

I am currently a university student studying counselling and psychotherapy, which is shaping my commitment to wellbeing, pastoral care and emotionally healthy leadership. I am also increasingly aware of how many people can feel unseen or unheard, from young adults I meet at university who are spiritually open and asking important questions about faith, to those living with experiences that are not immediately visible. Having developed transverse myelitis at 15, I have lived with a hidden disability for much of my life, and this has shaped my desire for a Church that listens well, makes space for every voice, and recognises the gifts and contribution of every person. I long to see a Church where clergy, lay leaders and congregations are supported, encouraged and given the space and care they need to flourish.

I would describe myself as someone who values the historic, biblical foundations of our faith, and I am committed to engaging respectfully, clearly, and constructively with the whole breadth of the Church. Even where we differ, I will contribute with integrity, kindness, and a desire for good process.

If elected, I will listen carefully, speak honestly, and represent our diocese with humility, integrity, and hope. It would be an honour to serve.

Thank you so much for considering giving me your vote.

Rachel

