

# GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS

## REV SARAH WATSON



Priest-in-Charge of Allestree St Nicholas,  
Allestree St Edmund, Quarndon and  
Darley Abbey

Proposed : Ian Webb    Seconded : Dwayne Engh

### Why am I standing?

I am standing for General Synod because I believe this is a significant moment for the Church of England. Alongside the challenges we face, there is an opportunity to reimagine ministry, release the gifts of lay and ordained people, and place mission at the centre of all we do. With courage, faith, and imagination, we can help the Church flourish and share the transforming good news of Jesus Christ.

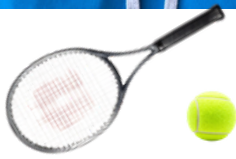
I believe the Church should be a place of dignity, belonging, and opportunity for all God's people, where everyone can contribute and flourish regardless of background, identity, or circumstance. I would seek to bring this commitment to General Synod, listening well and working collaboratively across traditions and perspectives, something I have a proven track record of doing within the Church of England. I believe it is important to represent everyone if elected, not just those with whom I agree.

### Ministerial Experience

Parish priest - Area Dean - Diocesan Synod - Bishop's Council - Business Committee - Community Board Member - Windsor Leadership Programme Alumna - Board of Education - School Governor - Training Incumbent - Theological Education - Ministerial Development Reviews- Vocations Team - Bishop's Adviser for Vocations - National Growing Younger Incumbents Leadership Programme – Schools and Sports Chaplaincy (published work) - Parish Revitalisation - National Estates Evangelism Task Group - Diocesan Development Groups - Ecumenical Partnerships

*'I admire Sarah a great deal. She works constructively with people from a wide range of traditions and beliefs, always committed to helping build a more just and inclusive church. Her thoughtful, insightful approach to the major issues facing the church today, along with her dedication to keeping the gospel at the core of everything she does, makes her an excellent candidate for the General Synod.'*

The Rev'd Dwayne Engh



As a family, we love sport, which occupies much of our leisure time. I am Chaplain to Derbyshire Tennis and am passionate about the role sport can play in mission, discipleship, and community engagement.

Before ordination, I was Head of Faculty in an inner-city Church of England secondary school, where leadership in worship, youth ministry, and chaplaincy helped shape my call to ordained ministry. I have also served on the Board of Education and as a governor in both church and community schools, including as Chair of Governors. Education and young people have always been central to my ministry. The experience gained through these roles enables me to be a strong voice in General Synod for the Church's role in education, its engagement with schools and communities, and the vital task of growing younger.

I have served in a variety of contexts, including areas of significant deprivation. While I would describe myself as an Open Evangelical, I have ministered across a range of church traditions and settings. I served my curacy in the Walbrook Epiphany Team Ministry in Normanton, Derby. As Enabling Minister at St Philip's, Chaddesden, I helped reconnect the church with its local community and establish a new worshipping community.

As Area Dean of Derby City, I led the reshaping of Chapter and Deanery Synod. I have also been involved in vocations work and Reader training, and I occasionally lecture at St Hild College for both lay and ordained ministers. In addition, I currently serve on Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council, and the Business Committee. This has given me a broad understanding of both the opportunities and the challenges facing clergy, parishes, dioceses, and the Church of England, equipping me to contribute effectively to the work of General Synod.

## What would I bring?

- **Practical insight into the opportunities and challenges facing the Church today at parish and governance levels with a commitment to advocating for sustainable and mission-focused models of ministry**
- **A voice for clergy wellbeing**
- **A proven ability to build bridges across church traditions which will be particularly important when trying to find a way forward on issues such as inclusion**
- **To be an advocate for the church's role in education and its priority of Growing Younger**

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if you have any questions, please use the contact details above to get in touch.