

Proposed by: Revd James Durrant (Associate Minister: St Alkmund's, Derby)

Seconded by: Revd Josie Chamings (Curate: Brampton St Thomas & St Mark)

I am offering myself to represent the clergy of the Diocese of Derby and the wider Church in standing for election to General Synod.

Having been ordained for over twenty years, I have served in a variety of contexts—from industrial communities experiencing high deprivation in Carlisle Diocese to suburban Resource Church ministry in Leicester Diocese, and now as Rector of St Thomas and St Mark in Brampton, Chesterfield. These experiences have given me a realistic, practical appreciation for the daily joys and complex demands of parish leadership within the Church.



I joined the Diocese in April 2022. During my time here, my main focus has been at St Thomas' which had significantly reduced in size during the pandemic. Through the opportunity to focus on parish ministry, the Church has seen growth across both its adult and children's ministry.

My experience of parish ministry means that I am committed to the value and importance of being embedded in a local community; it is through relationships that the local Church gains the privilege to share the gospel and impact a local area for good. It is my strong belief that ministry and mission are most clearly demonstrated through parish ministry.

Outside of parish ministry, I have been involved in mentoring other clergy, both from this diocese and others, and I also teach a module on Leadership at St Hild's College, predominantly to ordinands.

While my personal theological background is evangelical, throughout my ministry, I have worked alongside colleagues from across the breadth of the Church of England; this was particularly the case during my time as an Area Dean. I believe our strength lies in mutual respect and shared mission; focused around Jesus. As a Synod representative, I would commit to being a listening, constructive, and unifying voice.

I would be grateful for your support in this year's election to General Synod.

Thank you



Rector - Brampton, St Thomas and St Mark

Experience

- **Parish Leadership:**
 - Rector of Brampton, St Thomas and St Mark (from 2022)
 - Vicar of St John's, Hinckley (13 years)
 - Assistant Priest in South Barrow Team
- **Wider Leadership:**
 - Member of Diocesan Synod (both in Derby and Leicester)
 - Associate Faculty, St Hild's College
 - Ambassador for Watoto UK
 - Former Area Dean
 - Former Diocesan Church Planting Consultant (Leicester)
 - Former Chair of Trustees for Feed the Hungry UK
 - Former School Chair of Governors

Priorities

- **Resourcing Frontline Parish Ministry:** Whether in single or multi-parish benefices, urban estates, town centres or rural setting. Church can be most effective when it is local. National funding and diocesan initiatives must directly support local ministry.
- **Investing in Vocations & Young People:** We need to be encouraging lay and ordained vocations across all traditions. Effectively supporting and encouraging clergy as they face changes in ministry, equipping churches, and enabling ministry that connects with and nurtures faith among children, young people, and families.
- **Wise Stewardship:** I am an advocate for transparent, prayerful allocation of resources to enable effective ministry through the country.
- **Practical Governance:** I would want to encourage national policy and legislation that works with the daily realities of parish life rather than burdening them.

Why I am standing

I strongly believe that the local Church can and should be at the heart of seeing lives and communities transformed. I want to see people and the Church flourish and love it when they respond to God's call to be all that He wants them to be. Out of that, I have a desire to see the Church of England be a positive voice in society through following the example of Jesus. General Synod is able to set the tone and encourage what happens at a local level.

Having served the local Church since first coming to faith, I would welcome the opportunity to be involved in contributing to the wider national conversation and would do all I can to see what I carry in my heart for the Church realised.

I believe that I have experience of and passion for the growth of the Church and the mission of Jesus, which would enable me to do this. I also think that my wider experience will enable me to effectively be involved in wider Synod groups, meetings, and debates.

Personal information

I am married to Clare, who works for a national charity, and have two adult children. Pre-ordination, I worked firstly as a dedicated Christian Schools Worker (supported by local churches), before becoming a Youth Minister at a local Church.

If you would like to get in touch with me, I can be reached:
by email at gary@stthomasbrampton.com
or by phone on 07840694128.