



Revd Andy Bond

Proposer: Revd Paul Desborough

Seconder: Revd Phil Mann

Who am I?

- Associate minister of St Werburgh's Derby and St Francis Mackworth, leading the revitalisation of the parish church of Mackworth: St Francis, plus recently appointed as an Assistant DDO.
- I am married to Rachel and we have 2 children aged 6 and 9, plus 2 hamsters and some fish!
- Grew up in London Borough of Bexley, attended the parish church of St John the Evangelist Welling for 30 years and my faith in Jesus came alive as a teenager here.
- After school I worked at Cineworld Bexleyheath and then in central London as a pensions administrator for three different companies, over 8 years, before going forward for ordination.
- I enjoy travelling (before Covid !), going to the gym, reading, walking in the peak district, gardening and when I am able, a trip to the Alps to ski.

Why am I Standing for General Synod?

I am passionate about the Church of England having depth, health and reaching out in words and deeds to those who do not yet know the Good News of Jesus. I believe the Church of England has a unique opportunity as part of the wider church to proclaim this afresh to this generation. General Synod has an important role in its conversations around mission and ministry.

Almost all of my life has been spent as part of a parish church and during my last year in Mackworth I am more convinced than ever that the parish church has an incredible part to play in local communities. I believe this experience of leading a revitalisation plant brings together the opportunities and reality of parish ministry, alongside having been part of a resource church. I want to see parish churches flourishing and connecting with their localities and seeing lives changed as they encounter Jesus Christ.

Our culture feels increasingly polarised and the danger is that the Church of England is as well. Jesus prayed that his church would be one and we have many significant conversations ahead and it is important that we engage graciously, humbly and prayerfully. I would love to offer myself to represent the diocese of Derby for this next quinquennium.

What can I offer General Synod?

As we seek to become a simpler, humbler, bolder church that is Jesus centred and Jesus shaped, I believe I have the following skills, experience and background to contribute to General Synod.

- *A diverse voice*, I grew up in an area which I would describe as “white working class done good.” We lived on a small estate for 8 years after getting married. As a result of our location I ended up visiting a number of friends in prison and had many links with those wrestling with addictions and chaotic lifestyles. The estate I now minister to is also mainly white working class, I hope to be able to represent this perspective with integrity.
- *A concern for those on the margins*. During my curacy I was heavily involved with a charity that the church ran called “Living Well” which was a ministry to those on the margins. At the time we had a community meal of over 100 people every week, a foodbank 3 times a week, a benefits clinic, MIND support, bible meditation, art therapy and much more.
- *A passion to connect faith and work*. I worked for 12 years in different settings prior to training for ordination and I have a deep desire to see people make connections and serve God in their day to day work.
- *Experience of two different types of church plant*. In the past 4 years I was on the team planting a city centre resource church and I now lead a revitalisation parish plant on an estate.
- *Traditional and contemporary together*. At St Francis we have a traditional weekly liturgical communion service and a “modern” service of the word, plus an online service. I am passionate about seeing the different parts of Jesus’ church grow.
- *Desire to connect with children and young people*. My current church has about a third of the weekly congregation of the modern service who are under 18. I have run youth groups, ecumenical young adult groups and was student pastor at St Werburghs for 2019 to 2020. Children and young people are vital to the life of the church now and in the future.

It would be a privilege to serve the Church of England on General Synod and represent all the clergy from Derby Diocese in this way as we work together ‘knowing we are loved beyond measure in Christ, we are able to offer, with generous faith and courageous hope, life-giving love without restraint.’ I would therefore love to ask for your first preference vote to represent you at General Synod.

If you would like to contact me about these or any other issues please email me on andy.bond@stfmackworth.org, call 01332 504 680 or drop me a Direct Message on social media @stfmackworth