



General Synod Election Address 2021

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Proposed by: Canon David Truby, Team Rector of Wirksworth

Seconded by: Canon Karen Hamblin, Area Dean of NE Deanery

My thanks to David and Karen for their support.

The General Synod elects by single transferable vote. If you are intending to vote for me, I would be very pleased if you would put me high on your list.

Who am I?

As Archdeacon of Chesterfield for the last 3 years and a member of the senior leadership team, I feel I am in a unique position to represent the House of Clergy on General Synod.

I come from a liberal catholic background, having had a significant role within the church for over 35 years, first as a Reader and now for the last 18 years through ordination. Prior to becoming Archdeacon of Chesterfield, during my ministry in Guildford and Southwark, I served on Diocesan Synods and was a voice for those on the margins who faced inequality. I served on the Board of Education and was the Diocesan Rural Link Officer.

Since arriving in Derby Diocese I have been working with the many different settings from Rural, Emerging Industrial and Market Towns to Suburban, Estates and City. I have chaired the Board of Education and am the Diocesan Growing Faith Champion. I bring that expertise with me, as well as considerable parish ministry experience and so would be able to speak to General synod on the issues these areas present.

What I believe and why you should vote for me?

I believe that everyone is loved by God beyond all measure and should be accepted and valued for the gifts they bring, “to have life in all its fullness.” ‘With a previous background in education I appreciate and strive within my vocational ministry to provide opportunities so that all people can reach their potential – while being filled with God’s spirit and understanding.

The call of the Archbishop of York for the church to be “**Simpler, Humbler and Bolder**” has come at a pivotal time as we emerge from the last 18 months and the effects of the pandemic.

I feel that it is up to us, and the time is right for me now with the opportunities I have been given, particularly within senior leadership to make the path secure for the future of the church. We need a church that is relevant and representative of our society in the 21st Century. If you vote for me, you can be confident that from my background and privileged perspective on the challenges faced by parishes and the diocese I would be able to represent all of you within the national stage.

What are my thoughts on some of the big issues?

Simplification

Putting in place simpler and more agile processes will allow many more parishes to make the changes they wish to in order to grow the kingdom of God and serve the people in their own context. Recently I have been part of discussions with the national mission and pastoral group on the new proposals to be put in place to help with pastoral reorganisation, festival church/ rural models and faculty legislation that help make our buildings fit for purpose.

Parishes

They have a crucial part to play and we have a duty to secure appropriate measures and resources to help the whole people of God become “a more Christ - Centred Church” that allows everyone to flourish.

I was pleased that at the last General Synod meeting there was a call for the parish to be at the heart of any vision, and I firmly believe that we have to build on our inherited church as well as seeking new ways to engage.

Children and Young people

They have a significant role to play in the future of our church so creating opportunities and mechanisms so that they can become valued members of the church is crucial for the future. I would want to speak out and support the Growing Faith partnership.

Well-being / Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM)

As Archdeacon I am able to meet with clergy individually which gives me insight into particular needs around professional development and ongoing wellbeing. I have already been part of the evaluation and proposals for revising a more fit for purpose CDM process. This is a key issue that will continue to be discussed and acted upon at forthcoming synods.

My role also gives me some influence at a senior level which would be beneficial for our diocesan presence and profile within the wider church. My intention, as we recover from the effects of this pandemic, is to ensure that we build an open, honest and supportive church that honours the significant effects on life that following a ministerial call can have.

Rural and Environmental

From my involvement with the Farming Community, FCN in Derbyshire, Rural Action Derbyshire, Ecumenical Environment group and Rural Network group I have a particular interest in rural and environmental issues. I would be keen to ensure that progress is made towards Net Zero Carbon by 2030, and that the issues of Climate change are kept on the agenda.

Policies

The policies that we develop in the Church of England, as part of the Anglican Communion and following the Five Marks of Mission should set an example globally. I would want to make it a priority that these policies can uphold Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation setting the example for all society.

I have been involved in debates and national conversations on: sexuality, safeguarding, accessibility, the role of women, BAME, LGBT, Living in Love and Faith, Growing Faith / Education and Environmental matters. I would like to see continual openness in dialogue that seeks to hold all these matters within the grace of God.

If I was elected to represent the Diocese of Derby, my voice would speak for you, members of clergy and laity. I would make sure issues that affect us all can be brought forward, and together over the next five years, we can create a sustainable, inclusive and adaptable church for the future.

I would be honoured to receive your vote.