

# The Reverend Jonathan Fleury

Priest-in-Charge,  
St Hilda's Cross Green,  
St Saviour's Richmond Hill,  
St Wilfrid's Harehills

**General Synod Casual Vacancy Elections 2024**  
**Diocese of Leeds: House of Clergy**

*Proposed by* Millie Day, Assistant Curate, Pontefract Deanery  
*Seconded by* Simon Walters, Assistant Curate, Huddersfield Deanery



Dear Elector,

I am writing to you ahead of the casual vacancy elections to the General Synod this year, to ask for your first or high preference vote to represent the Diocese of Leeds at the national level.

## *About me*

I was brought up in a rural background in the West Midlands, and having spent time in Dudley and now East Leeds, I have experience of living and working in both urban and suburban environments. Studying Law at University, I took a different path, setting up a small business selling traditional folk instruments from around the world and being a pastoral assistant before ordination training. I trained at the College of the Resurrection Mirfield, where I met my wife Gemma, who is Priest-in-Charge of Gipton and Oakwood parishes. Having served my curacy in the Pontefract Deanery, I currently serve three parishes, St Hilda's, St Saviour's, and St Wilfrid's across Richmond Hill, Cross Green, and Harehills.

## *My interests*

I have a great interest in forming bridges across different cultures, especially through languages. I speak German competently alongside a smattering of other languages including Serbian and the three Biblical languages, and love picking up words and phrases here and there. I'm a keen musician and play the bagpipes (you have been warned!), and I have a great love of the outdoors and enjoy all things to do with nature.

*Why am I standing?*

## **Valuing the most vulnerable in society**

Serving the 20<sup>th</sup> most deprived parish in England is both a profound challenge and a deeply rewarding experience. In this community, and others like it where economic hardship and limited access to essential services are prevalent, the role of the Church to empower and support residents can have a transformative impact. Initiatives focused on education, mental health support, and job training are crucial in fostering resilience and hope. Engaging with the parishioners beyond the four walls of the church building not only helps address immediate needs but also strengthens community bonds, creating a sense of belonging and purpose amid adversity. I hope to represent at Synod the people whose voice and concerns are under-represented.

## **Support of the Prayer Book**

The 1662 Book of Common Prayer is a foundational text in the Church of England, embodying a rich heritage of worship and spirituality. Its language and rituals create a sense of continuity and connection to the past, allowing congregations to engage with centuries of Anglican tradition. The Prayer Book can not only guide public worship but also nourish personal devotion, fostering a deep sense of community and shared faith. As it continues to shape the liturgical life of the church, the Book of Common Prayer remains a vital source of inspiration and unity for Anglicans today.

## **Representing younger people**

Representing younger people on the General Synod of the Church of England is crucial for fostering a church that resonates with the hopes and concerns of the next generation. Including younger voices ensures that contemporary issues are addressed in church discussions and decision-making. Whilst their perspectives bring fresh insights and new ideas, at the same time valuing the wisdom and experiences of older members fosters intergenerational dialogue and mutual understanding. This collaborative approach not only enriches decision-making but also strengthens the church's mission. By actively listening to and engaging younger people (both lay and ordained), the Church of England empowers them to shape their faith communities in a rapidly changing world.

Please do feel free to contact me on 07545 368 567 or [fr.jonathan@mailfence.com](mailto:fr.jonathan@mailfence.com), I'd be very glad to hear from you.