

General Synod Election Address

Rev Daniel Miles

I am running for election for the casual vacancy of General Synod because I feel that it continues to build on the sense of vocation that I had entering Ordained ministry. One aspect of the calling was about seeing change and development in God's church, in line with scripture and the movement of the Holy Spirit. I had the sense that if I wanted to see change I needed not to just talk about it but also take any opportunity to implement it. By being on General Synod I feel that this is part of that vocation being fulfilled.



I was a member of Diocesan Synod until the end of the last cycle. I felt that I learnt a lot about the God given Diocesan vision and management. In turn, that has played an important part in my priestly leadership at St James the Great Manston (Leeds Episcopal Area), to see the Diocesan vision lived out in the parish.

I was ordained deacon in June 2019, having trained at Ridley Hall Cambridge (2016-19). I served my title within the Erringden Benefice, St Michael's Mytholmroyd and St John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Cragg Vale (Huddersfield Episcopal Area) during which I was ordained priest (October 2020). The three years in the benefice taught me how village life and spiritual journey can differ from other contexts. I am now serving as Interim Priest in Charge at St James the Great Manston. In the two years that I have been ministering here I again have developed a new understanding of how the needs of this church and its community can be met in different ways. I feel that these two experiences allow me to approach matters of the Diocese and National church in a way that offers thought and consideration to different people and places.

During my ordained ministry, and from previous experience as a primary school teacher, I have developed the skills to look at the bigger picture. To identify where we need to be going and develop a strategic, yet flexible, approach to achieving the end goal. At times the national church can get tied up with process and lose sight of the call we all have – to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and see communities changed. By representing my fellow clergy, and diocese, on General Synod comes with a responsibility to see this bigger picture and what our role within it is. In turn it also means seeing how the diocese can fulfil the call of the national church too.

I have always been someone who will consider all options and views in a prayerful manner. This means that at times I have had to be the person to ask the difficult or awkward question, to try and reconcile different viewpoints, find a middle ground or make the decision that is right in the situation even if it was not what everyone would have wanted.

During my ordained ministry I have seen how ministers of different traditions and theological backgrounds can flourish together. There are differences but when we focus on the one thing that unites us, Jesus, we can work together for the benefit of God. The benefit of His church. And most importantly, the benefit of His people.

I would like to be one of the voices, along with those already elected, on General Synod that represents as many people as possible, to see change and move the church into a place that sees growth of the kingdom heaven on earth.