



General Synod
Election Address 2021

The Rev'd Daniel Valentine



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Proposer: Canon Nigel Ashworth, Rector, Manchester (St Ann)

Secunder: Laurie Windle, Assistant Priest, Chorlton-Cum-Hardy (St. Clement)

Introduction

I serve as half-time Priest-in-Charge at St Matthew with St Mary, Crumpsall in a diverse and deprived area. I seek to lead a church which is a blessing to the community which it serves. I continue to practice as a Solicitor specialising in Human Resources, Discrimination and Employment Law often advocating for those who may be overlooked.

I was ordained deacon in 2016 and priest in 2017 after training with the Yorkshire Ministry Course and the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield. I served my title in Chorlton (South Manchester) as a Minister in Secular Employment. I have also served as a Chaplain at Manchester Airport, and I am a Commissioned Army Cadet Force Chaplain.

I have never sought election to General Synod before; but I feel called to do so now because I will be able to bring considerable knowledge and experience to some of the issues that Synod will address during its next session.

I am a passionate supporter of parish ministry and a supporter of the "Save the Parish Network". I believe that it is only through properly supporting and resourcing parishes, that the Church of England can truly be the prophetic, spirit led, inclusive and Gospel Church that God calls us to be.

I will fight.....

- for an **inclusive church** - bringing personal experience and testimony to the Living in Love and Faith process and pressing for this to bring about real and lasting change. In my work as a discrimination solicitor, I have always been a

staunch advocate for the underrepresented and oppressed (we are all made in the image of God) and will continue to do the same when elected to Synod.

- for a **safe church** – safe for children and vulnerable people (yes!) but also safe for clergy. I have supported clergy who have been damaged by the Clergy Discipline Measure. I will press for root and branch reform when elected to Synod.
- for a **local church** – the parish is at the heart of the Church of England. It informs every aspect of our mission and our vision of ourselves. The parish is our principal “Mission Community” and must be prioritised over and above “Resource(d) Churches” sitting outside of the parish system. When elected to Synod I will campaign for the wide-ranging use of Bishop’s Mission Orders to be reviewed and for resources to fairly distributed across church locations and traditions.
- for a **prophetic church** – with slimmed down central services, fewer managers and a flatter structure which is truly close to the people that it is called to serve. As an ordained minister, I long for a church which does not see me as a “limiting factor” but as a priest truly seeking to discover and share the heart and mind of God and leading others to encounter and experience God. As a member of Synod, I will not retreat from speaking truth to power.
- for a **prayer-filled church** - prayer and intercession is the lifeblood of the Church. A praying church touches, moves and is moved by the heart of God. Too often we have been content to prioritise “process over prayer”. The resulting church at times seems distant from those whom it is called to serve and oblivious to the promptings of the Spirit. As an elected representative I will press for prayer to be at heart of every decision that is made.

If you would like to discuss any of the above points, do please feel free to contact me using the contact details above. I do hope that you will vote for me. If elected, it will be a privilege to represent you and be an advocate for diocesan clergy in the General Synod.

With every blessing....

Daniel Valentine