

Election address from Canon Márcia Wall

It's a personal honour for me that I might be trusted by fellow clergy in the diocese to represent them in the next General Synod of the Church of England.



Having been a lay woman, ordinand, curate, vicar and residentiary canon, all within this diocese, I hope I'm well placed to understand first-hand the pressures placed on our clergy.

I have served our Diocese as Lay Chair of Deanery Synod, Area Dean, Borough Dean, Bishop's Advisor for Women's Ministry, Chair of the Diocesan Interfaith Task Group and Facilitator of the Tampere Link Group.

We all know this has only been amplified throughout the pandemic as so many of us have got to grips with the digital world, major changes in parish and deanery structures, as well as (let's be honest) some fairly clumsy communications from the national church. I recognise a weariness in the faces of the many clergy I meet at the cathedral, in the wider diocese, and with colleagues within the Society of Catholic Priests, we are having to dig deep to find wells of refreshment and revitalisation. My door will remain open to you as friends and colleagues, for me to listen to what you want and need, and then to reflect that in my thinking, speaking, and actions at General Synod.

Although I work at your cathedral, my heart is that of a parish priest. For the most part, it's at the coalface of the parish that our church does the work of God and I pray daily in turn for the parishes (and chaplaincies) of our diocese and enjoy the moments when I'm out and about once again.

I would want to be a voice to ensure the views of all clergy are heard not only within General Synod but within our diocese. If there are things the senior staff need to hear, I'll continue to say them. I would want to continue to work for a Church of England that is open, generous, hopeful, and engaged with the world around it, not inward-looking and judgmental. We need to do better on matters of racial justice, LGBTIQ inclusion, and climate change. We need to ensure that 'mutual flourishing' is just that: a larger table where all are welcome and offered dignity and respect. I'm a Supported Candidate of Inclusive Church.

I fully understand that there are difficult issues discussed at General Synod and difficult choices to be made. It is important that we are prepared to listen attentively and carefully to all sides before making a decision, praying for guidance and being prepared to listen to the Holy Spirit, even if the message we are hearing is not the one we want to hear.

Throughout my ordained ministry, I have always looked for people who think differently from me. Working at the Cathedral has given me the wonderful opportunity to work alongside brothers and sisters from different traditions and views within the Church of England. This has enriched my ministry and deepened my understanding of those who think differently from me. We should not fear difference but embrace the possibilities and opportunities that I believe God is laying before us.

I am committed to the Diocese of Manchester and to the Church of England, and I am confident that I have both the experience and the skills to be an active and effective member of General Synod.

I am passionate about the Gospel and Jesus' message of Love – love of God and love of neighbour. I believe that we are all one in Christ, irrespective of our ethnicity, colour, cultural background, gender or sexuality, and our love for our neighbours is shown in tolerance, respect and acceptance of our differences.

I hope you feel able to support me in this election. If you don't know me, or you have questions or concerns, then please do reach out:

canon.precentor@manchestercathedral.org

***If you do feel able to support me,
please make mine your First Preference vote.***

With love and thanks. Márcia.