

Rev'd Andrew Lightbown: Election Address



General Synod member 2019-2021

As a member of General Synod, I have attended the full range of sessions and have spoken regularly in debates on mission and evangelism, vision and strategy, and Living in Love and Faith (LLF). I am a member of the Next Steps Reference Group for LLF.

Nominators: Rev'd David Meakin and Rev'd Charlotte Bannister-Parker

A little bit about me:

I am the Rector of the Winslow Benefice in the Buckinghamshire Archdeaconry. The benefice comprises the growing market town of Winslow, the village of Great Horwood, and the hamlet of Addington. I am passionate about the parish church and desire to see not only its survival but its flourishing; 'parish first' is an ideal I hold dear. I strongly believe that it is through the parish system and the parish church that mission and evangelism are best established; the local church responding to the local context.

I enjoy teaching and am a tutor in liturgy and worship and mission and evangelism on the Local Ministry Pathway. I also enjoy writing and blog regularly at theore0.wordpress.com.

In the diocese I have served on the Board of Mission and the Glebe Investment Committee (2014-2019). I have served as an elected member of the Diocesan Synod since 2014.

What's important?

Over the course of the next quinquennium, General Synod will need to tackle some really important issues; issues that will determine the character and future of the Church of England. The first of these is inclusivity.

I am standing for election as an inclusive candidate and am **'committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality.'**

Secondly, I am committed to the parish system. I will, if elected, continue to speak in debates on vision and strategy, mission and evangelism, and, crucially, finance. I strongly believe that the Church of England needs to find new and better ways to manage its affairs and exercise stewardship over its historic financial assets. This seems to me to be one of the crucial lessons of the last quinquennium.

General Synod will also have to pay very close attention to the Mission and Pastoral Measure, making sure that an appropriate balance is maintained between simplification, efficiency, and subsidiarity.

I am concerned for the long-term viability of parishes, their priests, and their people. I am happy to support and encourage a mixed economy, but would want to argue that the parish must remain the heartbeat of the church; 'parish first' is very much my motto.

I will also be supportive of measures brought before General Synod that seek to address issues of poverty and the climate crisis. The Church of England must be good news for the poor and the created order, in order to be good news at all.

In summary

I am standing as an inclusive candidate – as a candidate who wishes to see a church where all may flourish and none need fear - and as a parish priest deeply committed to the vibrancy of the parish system. I am also standing as a candidate with a track record of speaking at Synod, using my voice to speak into some of our most crucial debates. I care passionately about the Church of England as a national and established church, a church that exists to serve all people in all places.

Please do consider voting for me.

Contact details

I would be delighted to hear from you and can be contacted via email at alightbown@hotmail.co.uk or by phone on 01296 712 564.

My address is: The Vicarage, Vicarage Road, Winslow, MK18 3BJ