

Rev Anthony William Everett

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I would like to offer myself to serve the Diocese of Canterbury and the wider Church in standing for election to General Synod.

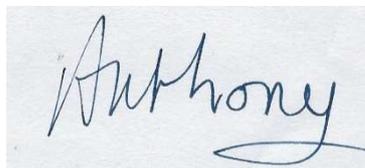
I have been privileged to be the vicar of Christ Church St Andrews in Herne Bay for 19 years and during that time have seen the church family grow and develop so that we are now able to have an impact in our community by running, amongst other things, a food larder and a job club. I am also chair of our local Street Pastor Scheme and have developed active links with three state primary schools and one state secondary school where we take assemblies and have services throughout the year. We have been privileged to set up and run two Ignite congregations one of which is aimed at families and have been delighted to see people come to faith and grow in that faith in all our congregations. We are now starting a new Sunday afternoon service for young families. During my time in Canterbury Diocese, I have been honoured to serve on Archbishops Council and Diocesan Synod. I have been Area Dean of Reculver and been an ADDO and in a vacancy acting DDO for a short while. I believe that one of the contributions I could bring as a Canterbury representative is my experience both of parish ministry and of Diocesan life.

Family life has always been important to me, and I have been married to Anne for 40 years, we adopted three children from different families and now have the privilege of five grandchildren. We love spending time with them and are happy to return them, normally due to exhaustion! I am a keen sports fan, am known to be an Arsenal supporter and try to spend some time in the gym at least three or four times a week. We love holidaying in France and have been known to camp with friends and family.

Like most people I find that labels are almost always unhelpful, I have been described by others as an evangelical of 'generous orthodoxy': 'orthodox' because I hold to the authority of Scripture in all matters of faith and doctrine – and 'generous' because I would love the church (as shown by my commitment to the Diocese of Canterbury) to demonstrate the radical combination of grace and truth that marked Jesus' own life and ministry

The following comments will, I hope, provide you with an understanding of how I approach the possibility of being elected / serving. I would be grateful for your support in the election (and if I am not your first-choice candidate I would ask you to consider giving me your second or third vote). If you would like to please feel free to email, ring or text me using the contact details above (and I can assure you I hope to be as available if elected).

Thank you



Rev Anthony William Everett

What I hope to bring to General Synod?

I have prayed and thought long and hard before putting myself forward for election, the reasons why I would like to be elected are that I hope to contribute

- my experience of working amongst some of the most marginalised of our community to the wider church as it grapples with the question of how to reach those who feel church has no relevance to them.
- to the church planting and growth strategy that the national church has embarked on as I have, in this role and previous roles, been privileged to be involved in seeing churches grow and to be involved in the planting of new congregations. The Church of England is shrinking and unless we put a major emphasis on this issue we will find ourselves simply managing decline. I have been a member of the Church of England for all my life, and I do not want the unique ability we have to reach out to a broken world to be lost in our generation.
- to the commitment to true racial equality in the church which is something I will want to further develop my thinking to be more helpful.
- to the ongoing discussion on how to address climate change especially so that we as a church fulfil the pledges we have made.
- to be a generous advocate on the issue of human sexuality. I am privileged to have friends and colleagues with radically differing views on these important issues and would want to engage in these conversations with grace and truth and in such a way that the pain/injustice experienced by some is recognised. I recognise that this will be an important part of the Synod's life over the next few years and so will welcome any chance to study Scripture afresh on these issues.
- to the discussions on lay and clergy leadership. I have a proven record of both training curates who now lead their own churches and of raising up lay leaders in all kinds of ministries. As a national church we need to grapple with how we make it easier for lay and ordained people to use their gifts for the good of the whole church.

What others say

I hope this will enable you to vote for me with a high preference vote. I am delighted that Steve Lillicrap and Andy Bawtree have supported my candidacy and they will add their own comments. Andy writes *'I have known Anthony for over a decade and see him as a quintessential Parish Priest. He has a quiet and solid confidence in Jesus Christ and his faithful ministry reflects this. His commitment to serving in diocese and parish, engaging with a wide variety of opinions and ideas stand him in good stead to serve us at General Synod in a prayerful, thoughtful and measured way.'*

Steve writes *'I have known Anthony for many years and have served with him on Archbishop's Council and as fellow Area Dean. Anthony has a strong personal faith and a desire to see a flourishing Church serving the community, sharing the good news of Jesus. His Parish Ministry is a testament to this as has been his time as Area Dean and on Archbishop's Council. HE has a strong commitment to Jesus, the Church and to the Diocese and is thoughtful and caring in his conversations with others. Anthony would serve Church and Diocese well on General Synod.'*