



I'm deeply grateful that the story of my own faith and vocation is one that reflects the true breadth of the Church of England. Coming from a family that didn't go to church, my first real experience of Christianity was at a conservative Evangelical beach mission – this is what brought me to faith in Christ. Then I developed that faith, as well as a vocation to priesthood, through Anglo-Catholic churches and chaplaincies. In ministry, I have served in estate, urban, and suburban parishes and in dioceses with large rural ministries. This, along with my experience of God's working in and through the lives of many diverse people – and their development in faith – has convinced me that the Church, and especially our Church of England, is a place of breadth, with a variety of voices, opinions and understandings which are richer because of one another and together speak more fully of God's love and action in the world.

As the Church faces change and explores how best to witness and minister to today's society, it is important to acknowledge that there is no single answer to any of the pressing questions that we face. The different voices and experiences of our Church bring their own shades of understanding to the whole – and I believe that it is more crucial than ever for us to ensure that we listen well to one another and value all that others bring to our collective understanding. This doesn't mean that we have to agree on everything – in fact, there is a rich witness to be found when we disagree well. Rather, while we may not agree on every aspect of our faith and calling, we are all seeking to hold true to the Gospel that we have received. Disagreeing well enables mutual respect that honours and celebrates the breadth of our Church. The Church of England has always managed to hold a broad variety of views within itself which has enabled it to speak to the broad variety of people of this country with an authentic and compelling voice.

There is no single issue facing our Church today, and no single answer to the challenges we face. As I hope the Church will remain steadfast in holding a spectrum of committed, authentic views within our family of faith, I pray that the new General Synod will hear those varied voices, and value and give place to differing views with graciousness so that the Church does not become a monochrome expression of God's love, but retains that breadth that has nurtured me and countless others in following Christ. I hope you will vote for me so that I can play my part in helping Synod take our Church forward in a way that truly respects every voice.

THE VEN

**DARREN
MILLER**

**General Synod
Election Address
2021**