

## NICOLA DENYER, TYNEMOUTH DEANERY, HOUSE OF LAITY CANDIDATE, GENERAL SYNOD 2021

**PROPOSED BY – MATTHEW KING** (Deanery Lay Chair, Newcastle East; Lay Reader, Byker St Silas (part of the MINE Initiative; Deanery and Diocesan Lay Rep).

**SECONDED BY – VALERIE POPE** (Lay Worship Leader, Morpeth Parish, Morpeth PCC Secretary, Morpeth Deanery and Diocesan Synod Lay Rep).



### A BIT ABOUT ME

- I am married to Nigel a Specialist Community Nurse in Child and Adolescent Mental Health and we live in Whitley Bay with our three children (Olly 18, Aidan 16 and Iris 3). I was a nurse and a midwife in North Tyneside and Northumberland, until an old work back injury meant I retired at 34. I started going to church in 2011, after my son wanted to go to a pancake party there, and before long I felt at home. I completed my Licensed Reader training after taking the long route, and worked at St. Oswald's Hospice as part of the Chaplaincy team until March 2020.
- I love being a Lay Reader, and am part of a strong and fully collaborative staff team at St Mary's Monkseaton. The last couple of years have been difficult for us all as churches, communities, families and individuals, and I am really keen to look at how we support each other as we reemerge from lockdowns and isolation.
- In May 2021 I began a new role as Lay Ministry Development Officer in the Diocese. It's a big title and I'm just starting to work out what it means. Basically, I'm here to hear from all of you, and do all I can to support you in recognizing, developing and growing confidence in all your amazing God-given talents, callings and ministries. Over the last 3 months I've started to get to know lots of you, and believe me, there is a multitude of passionate, dedicated and faith-filled people all over our Diocese. We need to get better at building relationships with each other, connecting and sharing the stuff God is calling us to do. I love the fact that this job allows me to help this process along.
- I love this part of the world. I grew up in Wooler, and both my parents come from North Northumbrian stock. I often say the further North I go, to more it feels like home. This place is our home and it's fab to be able to travel around it and meet so many of you too. It would be an honour to represent our home and our concerns at General Synod should I be elected.

**REMEMBER – VOTING CLOSSES ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER!!!**

## NICOLA DENYER – GENERAL SYNOD 2021

I feel called to serve on General Synod, as the Church of England faces important decisions about its future direction.

**EQUALITY** – I firmly believe that the Church of England needs to be a place where we all can find welcome, hospitality and affirmation, both for who we are and for what God has called us to be. I am committed to equality for everyone, regardless of their ethnicity, sexuality or gender; socio-economic status, disability or mental health. There must be equal access to all roles, ministries and opportunities; Lay and Ordained; as well as recognition within the Church of the callings given by God that are exercised in the world, as well as on Sundays.

**TRANSFORMATION** - We live in a time of change, perhaps highlighted by Covid-19. The Church has stepped up across the Diocese in responding to community needs and offering worship in different ways. I believe that we can continue to transform ourselves; to look to how we share our gifts, get better at asking for help and working far more closely across parishes, communities, deaneries and dioceses. The timetable for the follow up to Living in Love and Faith is fast approaching, and we need to think creatively and with love about what happens next. I would love to be part of this process. The Climate Change agenda and becoming Carbon Neutral is something that the Church needs to lead on, for the future of our world and our children.

**COLLABORATION** – I believe that building relationships and connections between us is the best way to get things done, to share experience and hear wisdom. I will ensure that any information from Synod reaches your ears, and that I feedback your thoughts nationally.

If I haven't convinced you to vote for me (yet), have a read of the supporting comments below:

**I have known Nicola since we trained together as Lay Readers in the Diocese. I am honoured to be asked to nominate Nicola for General Synod where I am sure she will represent our diocese well and also be a channel for information back to diocesan and deanery synods. (Matthew King)**

**I have no hesitation whatsoever in seconding Nicola's application to General Synod as a Lay representative of Newcastle Diocese. She is a woman of great integrity; an experienced Lay Reader, who is both passionate and pragmatic. (Val Pope)**

Please contact me at [nicoladenyer27@gmail.com](mailto:nicoladenyer27@gmail.com) with any questions or thoughts. I'll be really pleased to hear from you!!

**Thank you for reading my electoral statement, I hope you will give me your first preference vote. But if not, please just make sure to vote for someone!**

