

Election Address for The General Synod House of Clergy



The Reverend Robert Lawrance
Vicar of St Francis High Heaton
& Area Dean of Newcastle East
Nominated by The Reverend Catherine
Macpherson
Seconded by The Reverend Tim
Mayfield

Why am I standing?

I am standing because I want the Church I love to fulfil her mission as a herald and agent of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. We are called to be midwives in the transformation of life that God longs to bring to birth in our world. I am committed to Inclusive Church and think that the future direction of the church is not helped by a face-off between Pioneering and Parish models of ministry, but rather it depends on an Anglican blend of the two! To fulfil our calling, I believe passionately that there are certain issues that the church should address as part of its mission to our nation. In the coming years I would hope particularly to speak and encourage the national church in these following areas:

- The introduction of equal marriage into the life of the church
- the proper training, support and care of the clergy
- the importance of a lived spirituality and obedience to our vocation under God
- the inescapable implication of climate change and the need to lead a response to it.

Why vote for me?

I am an experienced priest who has worked in three dioceses in the northern province over 30 years in a variety of parishes, and also as a part-time hospital chaplain, HE chaplain, Fire Service and Police chaplain, as well as being a non-residentiary canon of Durham. I am currently Area Dean of Newcastle East and have chaired the diocesan Continuing Ministerial Development task group. I have also been a DDO and continue to act as a Bishop's Advisor, selecting candidates for ministry in the church. I am familiar with the many layers and structures of Church life and in spite of the many frustrations we might feel I am committed to working within the system, and to do so in a spirit of collaboration and constructive disagreement rather than party politics or polarized debate. I listen and discern well and am good at chairing meetings and strive to ensure that everyone's voice is heard, and that the mind of a group is attentive to God, including speaking truth to power. I am a tertiary in the Society of Saint Francis and model my life on the Franciscan values of Love, Humility and Joy.