



Reverend Louise Taylor-Kenyon

**Vicar of St Aidan's Bamburgh, St Mary's Belford
& St Hilda's Lucker
Area Dean of Bamburgh & Glendale Deanery**

Proposed by: Revd Jeremy Thompson, Rector of St John Lee,
Vicar of Warden with Newbrough,

Seconded by: Revd Dr Helen Savage; Vicar of the Moorland Group of
Parishes.

Clergy are an essential resource in the Church of England, especially at this time of profound change, so it is unfortunate that recent statements have suggested that we are becoming a burden. I don't believe this for one moment, but it is vital that the House of Clergy in General Synod is made up of people who are confident in their calling, who believe that the C of E has a unique and valued role, who are willing to speak truth to power. This is why I write to ask for your vote so that I can represent clergy across our Diocese; deacons and priests, stipendiary, full-time, part-time, self-supporting and retired, and be a voice for our unique urban/rural context.

Why vote for me?

I believe that we are called to be an inclusive, generous and welcoming Church, where everyone's gifts are valued. We are God's hands, feet and voices in the world, and I am committed to seeking equality, justice and peace for all God's children. The C of E is unique in that we have a presence in every community in England, and I believe that we should enable that to continue, even when resources are stretched, by thinking and acting creatively in our varied contexts. I believe that the flourishing of the Church of England is dependent on the well-being of its clergy, who are not well-served by the withdrawal of central resources from dioceses such as ours. If elected, I will do all I can to ensure that we are supported and affirmed as we lead and manage change in the future.

I value dialogue over confrontation; I am a skilled listener, and will respond to issues and concerns positively and honestly, and will strive to represent the needs and challenges facing clergy and the Church in our diocese. I have served and worked in urban, suburban and rural contexts, and my role as an Area Dean gives me privileged insight into the current realities of multi-parish and rural ministry. I 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.

The next five years.

Among other subjects, General Synod will be debating and making decisions on:

- Inclusion/Living in Love and Faith
- The Climate Emergency
- Vision & Strategy
- Clergy well-being, the Clergy Discipline Measure.

I support equal marriage, while recognising that this is an emotive and divisive subject for many people. However, we are not being honest with ourselves if we do not open up the debate about how we have managed to set aside our scruples about living together before marriage, and marriage after divorce, but are unable to celebrate life long partnerships between people of the same sex. I welcome and support the Living in Love and Faith process which I hope will enable us have good conversations, and I value the Pastoral Principles which underpin this. Inclusivity is also about being an open Church for all people, welcoming and affirming diversity, reaching across boundaries, trusting our identities as beloved children of God.

Care for creation has always been part of my theology, going right back to the 1970's when it was not part of mainstream Church thinking. I strongly support the Net Zero commitment, and see this as a social justice issue, as the poorest on our planet are those who suffer and will continue to suffer most. I will support General Synod in stronger action for climate justice.

'Without vision the people die'; but it must be the people's vision, and that means it must be developed and owned at parish and deanery level as well as by the central Church. I will oppose any attempt to impose a 'one size fits all' model, while recognising that we have to be realistic and pragmatic about how we serve our communities. Releasing energy by valuing and empowering the gifts of everyone in our churches is a vital part of this.

In my previous role I served variously as CMD/MDR/IME officer and spent many hours sitting at kitchen tables listening to clergy talk about their life, work and wellbeing. I support the revision of the Clergy Discipline Measure; there is also a need for greater commitment to clergy support through mentoring, accompaniment, fair pensions and affirmation.

Thank you for reading this far: I hope you will give me your first preference vote. You are welcome to contact me if you wish and I look forward to answering your questions in the hustings.

Don't forget that votes must be in by October 8th.

**Revd Louise Taylor-Kenyon
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Some Vital Statistics:

Mother of four children aged 24- 30

Single parent for 22 years.

Trained on the Northern Ordination Course: 2004 - 2007

Previous roles:

- Curate across five churches in Skipton and surrounding villages with two (simultaneous) training incumbents: 2007- 2010
- Resident Priest at St Mary the Virgin, Embsay with Eastby 2010- 2014. Vicar from 2014 - 2019
- CME officer for the historic Diocese of Bradford 2010 - 2014 with MDR responsibility.
Member of the Clergy Training Team for the Diocese of Leeds from 2014 -2019.

I am a member of the Iona Community, a Bridge Builder trained mediator, a member of Inclusive Church. I have served on many committees, boards and charities, as well as on Diocesan Synod, and still do so.

I have carried out additional study into multi-parish ministry & training, and inclusive models of decision making & change.

Before ordination I was a primary school teacher, an ante-natal teacher for the National Childbirth Trust, a trained singer, a church administrator and a member of Beacon (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern), but not all at the same time.

I love singing and swimming in the sea. I delight in ordained ministry, in constructing liturgy, leading worship and preaching. I am inspired by the release of people's gifts and enthusiasm through small group study and conversation, through positive action and affirmation. I enjoy reading, walking, talking and eating with friends.