

Daniel Howard

Vicar of Saint Columba, Anfield
in the Deanery of Walton.

Proposed by: The Rev'd Kate Wharton,
Vicar of St Bartholomew's, Roby.

Seconded by: The Rev'd Fran Myatt,
Vicar of St John's, Walton.

About me...

Born in Liverpool, I grew up in Aigburth and attended Mossley Hill Parish Church, it was here that I was confirmed as a teenager and sensed a call to ordination. During this time I started to explore the rich breadth of the Church of England, and found a home in the catholic tradition at St Agnes', Toxteth, the eucharist being at the heart of my vocation. After attending secondary school at St Margaret's, Aigburth, I went on to read Theology at Liverpool Hope University before undertaking twelve months of pastoral work in Croxteth and within the University setting. Following a recommendation for training, I completed two years at St Stephen's House, Oxford, before returning to the Diocese in 2014 to serve my curacy at St Columba's, Anfield. I was ordained priest the following year on the feast of Columba by the Bishop of Beverley. After three years in Anfield, I became Vicar of St Margaret & All Hallows in Orford, Warrington, and was Deanery Lead for Discipleship & Leadership Development; this role focussed on engaging the laity of Warrington for mission. I returned to St Columba's as Vicar in 2020, just before the onset of Covid-19.

As we emerge from the crisis of the pandemic, and recognising the fundamental questions that are beginning to emerge regarding the nature and identity of the Church of England, alongside more long-standing areas for discussion which will have significant impact on its future, I believe there is the possibility now, to echo the words of the collect, to 'make known your glory' through the 'renewal of our lives'. Only with such a renewal, will people be equipped to share the 'riches of your grace' they have received from Christ. I believe that such a renewal can come from treasures both new and old, to use the image of the storehouse from Matthew's gospel.

As a candidate for General Synod, I stand for:

- **The faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scripture and set forth in the catholic creeds.**

Geoffrey Fisher famously said that the Church of England has no doctrine of its own, but only that of the whole Church catholic. As a priest who stands in this tradition, I can offer such a voice over key issues of ministry such as the maintenance of the seal of the confessional and the requirement of episcopal ordination. I rejoice that our Church has always grounded its practice in the context of the wider Church, and I feel that we would be diminished by substantial changes in doctrine.

- **The Flourishing of all Anglicans.**

I firmly believe that graciousness should be displayed by all Christians particularly where there is disagreement over key issues of faith and order. To this end I have always sought, both before and after ordination, to contribute in some small way to mutual flourishing. As Archbishop Justin has stated, it is possible to disagree charitably. As a traditionalist catholic who is a loyal Anglican, I long to see all my brothers and sisters flourish in their ministries and will seek to promote the Five Guiding Principles, which preserves an inclusive space for all in our Church.



- **Listening and constructive conversations**

As the Living in Love and Faith process unfolds, I believe wholeheartedly that listening to one another and engaging in constructive conversations are vitally important. Grace, dignity and respect must permeate all interactions particularly on sensitive matters of key difference; particularly around gender and sexuality. I wish to maintain the definition of marriage as the Church has received it but will strive to listen to all voices as the conversation unfolds.

- **The parish system with renewed funding and resourcing.**

The parish church, to quote the great biblical scholar Barnabas Lindars, should be 'without walls', that is, it should permeate all aspects of the society it serves. With proper investment and resourcing the system has the capacity to do this and be the key instrument in taking the gospel to the people. Therefore, I would seek to maintain the system and the physical parish Church building, which we know, from research commissioned by the Diocese, is essential in the mindset of non-worshippers. However, I would like there to be a fairer distribution of financial resources, so that the most ordinary parish church, in the most deprived of areas (my parish is located in the top 150 most deprived in the country) can have equal access to investments and strategic capital and therefore greater missional opportunities not otherwise affordable. A radical, fairer reshaping of resourcing is needed to truly be a church without walls.

- **The vision and strategy of Missionary Disciples.**

As somebody who was involved in the initial consultations regarding the future priorities of the Church led by Archbishop Stephen, I advocated the need for discipleship to be placed firmly at the centre of any new proposals. As somebody passionate about discipleship (the focus of my previous role) I welcome the renewed focus within the vision and remain convinced that this is absolutely essential to mission and growth. Lay Leaders are essential, even more so following the challenges of the pandemic, and growth cannot occur without them, but I do not feel that this is at the expense of stipendiary clergy. I long to see clergy affirmed and revitalised who work collaboratively with the laity as missionary disciples with the single aim of the growth of the Church.

- **Treasures new and old**

In a nation that will be left broken and suffering from the pandemic, I believe in and stand for the Church of England; we remain uniquely placed to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of this land – our people, our parishes, our worshipping communities, our sacramental life our faithfulness to those outside our walls are our treasures – let it combine with new treasure of boldness, graciousness, revitalisation and fairer distribution of resources so that we as the Church may truly 'make known your glory'.

Please consider giving me a high preference vote in the coming election.

Thank you,

Daniel

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