

DAN LEATHERS

VICAR OF ST MARK'S HAYDOCK

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WA11 0UWProposed by Greg Sharples (Transform Widnes, Parish of St John and St Paul)
Seconded by Helen Coffey (St Helens, Eccleston team rector)

DEAR ELECTOR

I'm Dan and I have the honour of leading St Mark's Church in Haydock. In offering to serve on General Synod for the Diocese of Liverpool, I bring with me 6 years of Ordained parish ministry, my experience as a student worker and a passion to see the Church of England more united than ever.

FACTS ABOUT ME

- I'm 32, married to Claire and we have two primary school lads, Josh and Peter
- I've been a disciple of Jesus for the last 26 years and continue to be blown away by God's grace, mercy, love and faithfulness as I continue in my journey with Him
- In my Youth I started and served on a number of Youth Councils, but particularly relished the opportunity to be a Youth representative on the General Synod (2007-2008) on behalf of the Church of England Youth Council
- I was a student worker at St Alkmund's Derby as well as a lay chaplain at Derby university (2010-2012) before starting my training in Ridley Hall (2012-2015)
- I served an exciting curacy in Whitfield Parish in the beautiful town of Glossop in the Peak District (2015-2018)
- And I've been leading St Mark's since October 2018
- Making music, digital communication, chatting with those who don't yet know Jesus and growing leaders are some of the life-giving areas I love in ministry

CURRENT DIOCESAN ROLES

- Adviser to the Liverpool Diocesan LLF roll out group
- Liverpool Representative on the National LLF Advocates team
- Co-Chair of the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship

MY PASSIONS



Environment

I am deeply concerned about the exploitation of the world which we have seen humanity commit over particularly the last century. At this tipping point in human and earth's history, I believe the Church has a great task ahead in leading the way. As a substantial land and building owner, what the Church decides and commits to over our buildings makes a huge difference to our nations contribution to tackling climate change. In 2008 I had the privilege of addressing the General Synod and spoke particularly on the pressing need to act on this issue.



Church unity

I am continually drawn back to John's gospel and particularly two passages from Jesus around unity.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35 "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one" John 17:22

Sadly, what I witnessed in the GS discussions around Women Bishops in 2008 did not display a lot of love for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. In that moment, I felt the Lord call me to be a clear loving voice to speak truth in love and to be ready to stand for General Synod when he called me. This above everything else is why I feel God is calling me to stand for General Synod this year.



Living in Love and Faith

As a disciple of Christ holding to the current Anglican teaching on human sexuality, I have learned so much and been so blessed by serving as a national advocate for LLF and diocesan adviser to the Liverpool roll out group. Finding helpful and life giving conversation and discovering really good disagreement has been both life giving and filled my heart with hope for our future as a church. In a world where truth is considered relative, we have a faith which unites difference under our Lord Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In St Mark's, we have currently run LLF twice, which has given a new space for loving disagreement where 30 individuals have felt safe to share deeply and receive love from surprising places.



Food and financial crisis

It has been a privilege to work with some dedicated members of St Mark's in conceiving a food pantry which is starting next term. Through our furniture and clothing project and our TANGO café, we are looking to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals. Social outreach is part of the DNA of St Mark's and my heart is to see more people knowing Jesus and more justice in our world across our nation. I am excited about many of the upcoming opportunities to make a difference in the next term of General Synod.

THANK YOU

If voted onto General Synod, I would passionately serve as a loving voice for unity and faithfulness for our Church. Thank you for taking the time to read my address, and I hope you are encouraged to vote for me.