

General Synod Election Address

Jessica Amanda Howard Liverpool North & Walton Deanery

Proposed by: Mrs Pamela Ambrose
West Derby Deanery

Seconded by: Mr Adrian Manson
Liverpool North and Walton Deanery



About me

- Bishop's Appointments Secretary - since 2021.
- Acting Clergy Housing Manager – Interim role since January 2026
- Member of the Clergy Housing Committee.
- PCC member of St Columba, Anfield.
- Children's worship lead.
Health and Safety Officer
Deanery Synod representative.
- Trustee and Vice Chair of ACS Charity since Nov 2025.

I am married to Daniel, who is a priest in the Diocese, and we have two young children.

Born and raised in Liverpool, into a working class family, I would represent the majority of voices across the diocese, but a majority that is often underrepresented. I understand firsthand how remote decisions can have a huge impact on the Church, and I strongly believe that a range of perspectives should be heard in the decision making process.

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Why I am standing

I have always felt called to serve the Church, and strongly believe in lay ministry. Growing up on a council estate in north Liverpool, I have always been involved in my parish and have been attending church since birth.

For the past 15 years, I have actively tried to make a bigger difference in the Diocese in both my personal and professional life.

Firstly, by joining my PCC in both my former and current church in order to help serve the mission of the parish. Secondly, by becoming a Deanery Synod representative, to engage with the wider church community. And thirdly, by leaving my previous employment in the NHS, to take up my current position as the Bishop's Appointments Secretary, which has allowed me to use my skills and experience to support the functioning of the Diocese. My role includes: assisting our parishes with their vacancies, administering a smooth process which includes compliance with legal and safeguarding processes, and being a support to priests and parishioners. After prayerful consideration, I am standing for General Synod to use my voice as a young woman from the 'missing generation', as someone grounded in core Christian values, as someone who believes in fair representation, and, above all, as someone who seeks to put genuine care at the heart of all I do. I hope to contribute to a diverse range of voices at Synod, working with others to build a Church in which everyone can flourish.

What matters to me...



Children and Youth

I believe Synod has a responsibility to invest in our children now. This includes: the development of professional programmes for different age groups, which teaches, equips and resources them appropriately. I strongly believe this will enable them to grow, thrive, discern vocation and become the future leaders of our Church. It is vital that lay leaders are equally supported, trained and equipped for this ministry. Our children are not just the Church of the future, they are part of the Church today, and one of our greatest gifts for securing a thriving future.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding should be the top of everyone's priority list. I would advocate for robust policies, more tools for standardised reporting and recording, a streamlined and transferable training program and DBS checks.

Clergy Wellbeing

I am a strong advocate for the wellbeing of our clergy. Having recently spent eight months as Interim Clergy Housing Manager, their wellbeing was my sole priority. As a clergy spouse, I understand the pressures they carry and would advocate for a system that provides stronger support structures and greater financial resourcing for their ministries, housing and wellbeing.

Parish Resourcing

I believe that all parishes should be valued, resourced and supported. Our churches provide a space for people to gather, belong, and to know Jesus. The uniqueness of each parish is what makes the Church of England so diverse. Whether through its liturgy, tradition, service or priestly ministry. I would advocate for more funding directly into parish ministry, to enable initiatives that strengthen connections with parishioners and communities. Our priests should have the time and resources to be known in their parish, to visit, listen and to build lasting relationships with their flock, bringing people closer to Jesus and making Him known in the communities we serve.

Mutual Flourishing

I long to see all parishes, laity and clergy, women and men, flourish in their ministries throughout the Church of England. The diversity of the Church is one of its greatest strengths, holding space for all. For me, mutual flourishing means creating a Church where **all** have a seat at the table, we are all different, with our own unique perspectives, but, this should not be a barrier to working together. There should be space where genuine difference is held with support, respect and love. We can acknowledge our differences with grace, while uniting around what we share: our love for our Churches, our desire to see them grow, and above all, our love for God.

Romans 12:4-5: "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

**Thank you for
your consideration.**

Jessica Howard